FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Middle East & North Africa

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STEADFASTNESS FRONT MEETING CONTINUES IN ALGIERS

Bouteflika Speech

LD311550Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Speech by Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and Algerian foreign minister, at the opening session of the Arab steadfastness front meeting in the Al-Awarsi Hotel, Algiers, on 31 January--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate, dear brothers: I take great pleasure and pride in welcoming you to your country, Algeria, and in meeting once again to discuss the fateful issues and their developments and to continue the work we began in Tripoli for the purpose of strengthening our solidarity and defining the steps which we have to take in the face of the dangers which threaten our Arab homeland today, both in its east and in its Maghreb.

Events have placed challenges before our nation to which we must stand up and for which we must mobilize the energies to confront them. What has happened in the Arab east in its dimensions goes beyond mere disturbance in the balance of forces in the struggle against Zionism. It constitutes a direct threat to the revolutionary heritage, a threat that has resulted in the fact the Arab nation has had to wage a long and bitter struggle, firmly and determinedly. This struggle has enabled the Arab nation to preserve the unity of its peoples, to impose the justice of its cause, to win over world public opinion and to expose the nature of Israel as an imperialist, racist and expansionist phenomenon. Throughout this struggle, our nation has been able to force imperialism to retreat and effectively to impose isolation and a state of siege upon Israel and to (?achieve successes which have enabled) the Arabs to occupy their proper place in the world and opened wide horizons of liberation, progress and unity for their peoples.

But instead of strengthening our gains and intensifying the struggle against the enemies of our nation, the initiative of President as-Sadat came to destroy these assets, undermine or subvert the principles on which the solidarity of our countries is based and weaken our cause. Otherwise abandoning the commitments to our nation and disowning the national rights of the Palestinian people and ignoring their true representatives can only mean perpetuating the Zionist entity and taking the Arab homeland into the circle of imperialist influence and exploitation and turning it into a base hostile to the liberation current in the Third World.

This conspiracy which is being hatched for the liquidation of the Palestinian issue--and it is the crux of the struggle in the Arab east--finds its extension in the Arab Maghreb in the attempt to deny the right of the peoples to self-determination, and in the direct foreign military intervention in our area here once can see the extent of the imperialist plans which are aimed at hindering the march of our nation, stifling the aspirations of its peoples and isolating it from the current human civilization. These conditions place new responsibilities on us and require constant and coordinated work from us so that we can make the situation unfavorable to the enemy and so that the Arab nation may safeguard its militant potential and continue its struggle by carrying out its historic tasks of liberating its territories and safeguarding the future of its generations.

I am confident that our meeting will produce positive results defining the means that insure the shouldering of our responsibilities in this crucial stage in the struggle against Zionism and imperialism and (?create) a favorable structure for uniformed Arab action which can place our nation in such a position as will enable it to fully recover its rights and realize the aspirations of its people and safeguard its dignity.

May God guide your steps and may he lead you to do what is good for our nation. Thank you.

Summit Conference Agenda

JN311729Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] In its 2-hour meeting today, the conference of the foreign ministers of Arab steadfastness and confrontation states drafted the agenda of the Algiers summit of steadfastness and confrontation states which will be held on 2 February. Mr 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, head of the Palestinian delegation and spokesman of the conference, stated after the first session that the ministers discussed the current situation in the middle east from all its aspects. He added: The suggested solutions and points of view of the participants were identical.

The ministers will resume meetings this evening. The ministers sit at a pentagonal table, each on one side, with flags of the participating states--Syria, Algeria, Libya and the PDRY--and the Palestinian flag in the middle.

Afternoon Session on 31 Jan

LD311925Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The ministerial conference of the second summit of Arab steadfastness resumed its work this afternoon at the Awrasi Hotel at two levels: at the foreign ministers level, which began at about 1630 in a closed session, and at the level of the political committee, which studied the points on the agenda of the summit conference in greater detail. The political committee session was adjourned at about 1900. The foreign ministers are still in session. It is believed that the political session will resume its work tonight.

Some sources say that the committee is preparing a political statement to be put before the foreign ministry later on for discussion and approval.

Closed Session on 1 Feb

LD011238Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] The foreign ministers of the Arab steadfast countries resumed their meeting at Awrasi Hotel this morning in a closed session. They were joined by members of the political committee, who sat until 0130 this morning. It is believed that the ministers are studying the results of the work of the political committee.

Main Points of Summit Agenda

LD312201Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Algerian, Libyan, Syrian and PDRY ministers of foreign affairs and the PLO official spokesman, meeting today at the Awrasi Hotel, have, since this morning's opening session, adopted the main points of the agenda for the summit of steadfastness, which will be held on 2 and 3 February in Algiers.

The points of the agenda were enacted during the afternoon at the level of the political committee which was set up during the first working session. This time it was a question of studying in detail all the questions on the draft agenda, and this study, as PLO spokesman Abu Mayzar stated, necessarily implied an examination of all aspects of the situation in the Middle East. At the moment the ministers of foreign affairs of Algeria, Libya, the PDRY and Syria and the spokesman of the PLO have given themselves a little break for dinner, but during the evening they will resume their proceedings for a night session.

PLO Official Lauds Syria's Stand

JN311400Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Algiers, 31 January--In an exclusive statement to SANA, Abu Hassan, PLO representative in Algiers and member of the Palestinian delegation to the meeting of foreign ministers, said that Syria is now standing in the forefront against the Zionist enemy. This, he said, requires the members of the steadfastness and confrontation front to use all necessary resources to support it and to take part with it in its stand of confrontation against the As-Sadat-Zionist-imperialist conspiracy.

He added: We call on the other Arab countries to support the steadfastness and confrontation front as represented by Syria and the Palestinian revolution. The current stage and the seriousness of what the Arab area is passing through makes it incumbent upon all Arab brothers to offer their full support to Syrian and Palestinian steadfastness as well as to all brothers who stand in the same trench where they face local and international plotting.

Abu Hassan also called on all progressive forces to overlook all peripheral sensitivities and head toward facing the plot aimed at destroying not only the Palestinian revolution but also all Arab national and progressive forces. Keeping silent and taking neutral stands at this stage constitute a serious danger to the Palestinian as well as the Arab cause.

Abu Hassan then praised the continuing and good coordination now taking place between Syria and the Palestinian revolution and said: The historic and strategic relation between Syria and the Palestinian revolution is a principled and close one. The Palestinian people, represented by the PLO under brother Yasir 'Arafat, are proud of the ties between Syria and the Palestinian revolution--a relationship which was clearly expressed and was prominent at the Tripoli summit conference, where the steadfastness and confrontation front was formed from Syria and the Palestinian revolution, and later on joined by Algeria, Libya and the PDRY.

He concluded his statement by saying: We are now looking forward to the second steadfastness and confrontation conference, scheduled to be held in Algiers. We shall exert all our efforts and work with all members of the conference to make it a success and achieve the hopes pinned on it.

PLO Working Paper

JN311615Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian command yesterday held a meeting under brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. The radio correspondent has learned that during the meeting disucssion was continued on the Palestinian working paper which will be submitted to the steadfastness and confrontation summit conference due to convene in Algiers next Thursday.

The Palestinian working paper focuses on the need for firm confrontation against the concessions of the Egyptian regime. It also stresses the unity of Palestinian ranks and rejects any concession made by any party if it harms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Hawatimah, Jibril Arrive

LD011022Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, JANA, 1 Feb 78--Nayif Hawatimah, secretary of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine arrived in Tripoli airport yesterday afternoon. Ahmad Jibril, secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, also arrived here.

Nayif Hawatimah told a JANA correspondent that the unification of all the brigades of the Palestinian revolution had been a result of the Tripoli steadfastness summit. He added: We are now continuing a democratic dialog between the brigades of the revolution and the PLO, with a view to holding a Palestinian summit and adopting a unified program of action for all the forces of the revolution and the PLO. We hope, he said, that this will come through in the next few weeks.

Brother Ahmad Jibril said that the Tripoli summit conference had scored important success: A political program had been worked out for the Palestinian resistance movement, and the PLO has become a part of the front of steadfastness and confrontation. Ahmad Jibril expressed the hope that the second steadfastness summit in Algiers would come out with practical steps for strengthening the front of steadfastness and confrontation.

Al-Fahum's Hopes for Summit

JN281718Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has expressed the hope that the summit conference for steadfastness and confrontation to be held in Algiers early next month will be able to abort the Zionist plots aimed at annexing the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the cover of so-called self-administration [al-idarah adh-dhatiyah[. The PNC chairman condemned the role of collusion being played by the United States in cooperation with the Zionist enemy and President as-Sadat--collusion aimed at legalizing the Zionist occupation of Palestinian territories.

VOP SCORES IRAQ'S REFUSAL TO ATTEND ALGIERS SUMMIT

JN311922Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1515 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The meetings of the foreign and defense ministers of the front of steadfastness and confrontation today begin in the Algerian capital to prepare for the summit conference scheduled to convene 2 February. These meetings of Arab ministers are closely connected with (?sincere moves) aimed at drawing in Iraq and including it in this front so that it will take its place side by side with the steadfastness and confrontation forces. However, these attempts failed as a result of Iraq's refusal, for ambiguous reasons, to participate in the front's conference. Political observers discern a close relation between Iraq's refusal to participate in the steadfastness and confrontation front conference and its call for a complete summit, as disclosed by some Algerian sources and not denied by official Iraqi sources.

There has also been an Egyptian announcement on the reopening of the consulates between Iraq and Egypt as a first step in developing relations between the two countries following their severance in the aftermath of As-Sadat's visit to the Zionist entity.

Iraq's failure to attend the steadfastness and confrontation conference has led to bitter reactions in the Arab world, for Iraq represents a political, economic and military force which could be active and effective in foiling the repercussions of As-Sadat's visit to the Zionist entity if this force were placed in the context of a sound Arab coordination which shoulders the enormous burdens of the current stage, the foremost of which is, of course, the confrontation of As-Sadat's capitulatory course and its serious repercussions on the present and future of the Arab nation.

Despite Iraq's nonparticipation in the work of the steadfastness and confrontation front, the Arab masses, who reject As-Sadat's capitulatory course, pin big hopes on the forthcoming conference in Algiers, which shoulders historic responsibilities at this stage, the most prominent of which is the mobilization of the national Arab resources for the most important and serious battle waged by the Arab nation in defense of its existence in the face of an organized imperialist-Zionist-reactionary march and for the protection of its rights, as threatened by the danger of liquidation on the tables of capitulatory negotiations in Cairo and Jerusalem.

It is no coincidence that Israel decided to begin the direct military talks with As-Sadat's regime on the same day preparations for the Algiers summit conference began. Israel, in perfect and precise coordination with the United States and As-Sadat's regime, will not stop its persistent work to create new realities which constitute difficult challenges in the face of the national Arab forces resisting As-Sadat's treason and his course of relinquishment. Thus, it is feverishly trying to place a fait accompli before these forces.

Undoubtedly, the quick movements which characterize the American-Zionist-reactionary move in the region aimed at achieving quick results on the path of imposing capitulation on the Arab nation place urgent responsibilities before the forces of steadfastness and confrontation, responsibilities which should best be fulfilled without the least hesitation or waiting. These responsibilities can be defined in the following main points:

1. Formulating a national Arab plan aimed at tightening the isolation of As-Sadat's regime, especially since there are Arab and non-Arab sides which are promoting the sologan of Arab solidarity at a time when the main objective of this slogan is to secure an Arab cover for As-Sadat's treason and his exposed reliquishment of Arab rights.

2. Raising the level of preparation and mobilization among the forces of the steadfastness and confrontation front to more important and more effective levels so that these forces may have a political and military position which enables them to perform their national and pan-Arab tasks in confronting the big conspiracy to which the Arab cause is exposed. Such a position will also enable them to bridge the gap opened by As-Sadat in the wall of Arab steadfastness and then continue the struggle toward achieving pan-Arab objectives, the most important of which is the restoration of Arab and Palestinian rights. This cannot be achieved without perfect and precise coordination among the forces of steadfastness and confrontation on a clear basis and toward a clear common objective.

3. Strengthening the alliances of the steadfastness and confrontation forces with all friendly international forces, the foremost of which is the friendly Soviet Union, for these forces represent an active and effective international influence for the realization of Arab rights, both politically and militarily, taking into consideration the fact that American imperialism and its tools in the region are extremely active in working to strip the national Arab forces of their allies as a prelude to isolating these forces and weakening their political and military capabilities so that they will be easily swallowed up or accept the imperialist-reactionary will imposed on them.

There is no doubt that the steadfastness and confrontation forces, which possess huge economic and military potentials, realize with enlightenment and responsibility that they are required at this stage to place all their resources and powers in the battle of Arab destiny. They are also required to place all their material, human and military weight behind the first vanguard of combat represented by the PLO and Syria. We say with all confidence that the potentials of steadfastness and confrontation available to the national Arab forces are sufficient--if used correctly--to create one unified Arab force capable of foiling and toppling As-Sadat's capitulatory course. They are also sufficient to continue the effective and productive struggle to impose the Arab will and overthrow the will of the enemies.

PALESTINE CENTRAL COUNCIL TO MEET IN DAMASCUS

JN312128Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The Palestine Central Council will hold a meeting in Damascus soon. This was announced by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the National Council. Al-Fahum added that the Central Council will discuss the circumstances surrounding the Palestinian issue in light of current developments in the Arab area.

VOP: HUSAYN'S JOINING TALKS NO HELP TO AS-SADAT

JN271917Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1415 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The efforts of the United States, Israel and Egypt are now centered upon giving Jordan a part in the direct negotiations between the As-Sadat regime and the Zionist entity. We have heard that Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state, will arrive in Jordan tomorrow, Saturday [as heard], from Israel and will meet with King Husayn in order to put him in the picture and push him to take part in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations.

On another level, enemy Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has announced that U.S. diplomats are very optimistic about King Husayn's regime's joining the negotiations. Dayan added that As-Sadat is trying to end his isolation in the Arab world, with the help of the United States, through efforts to make King Husayn join the direct negotiations. On Monday King Husayn repeated a comment As-Sadat made before visiting occupied Jerusalem. In an interview with British television, King Husayn said: I am ready to go to the end of the world to regain the occupied territories.

As AFP has reported, observers are of the opinion that King Husayn has begun siding with As-Sadat and is now inclined to take part in the direct Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. This led Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to comment on the Jordanian attitude, saying: The stand of the Jordanian regime is not clear; it neither serves the interests of the Arabs nor those of Jordan.

All indications point to the fact that King Husayn has made up his mind, or rather he has heeded the U.S. decision that he should take part in the direct negotiations between As-Sadat's regime and the Zionist entity. He has always taken this stand into consideration and borne it in mind, despite his attempts during the past 2 months to hold the stick in the middle. He openly praised As-Sadat's moves and, at the same time, tried to maintain tenuous ties with the front of steadfastness and confrontation, which rejects As-Sadat's methods of capitulation.

Informed political circles are of the opinion that the king's participation in the direct Egyptian-Israeli negotiations is aimed at achieving the following:

1. Breaking down the political isolation imposed on As-Sadat by the Arab world.

2. Striking at the national aims of the Palestinians by reinstating King Husayn as an alternative to the PLO to represent the Palestinians.

3. Attempting to contain the Syrian stand, put pressure on it and distort it internationally by portraying the Syrian and the Palestinian stands as obstacles to a just peace in the Middle East.

The fact is that pushing King Husayn's regime to take part in the direct Egyptian-Zionist negotiations will put things in their proper perspective and expose the scattered imperialist mines. It will burn the cards of the As-Sadat front of capitulation. On the other hand, King Husayn's participation in direct negotiations will give the forces of the front of steadfastness and confrontation the ability to distinguish those who stand by it from those who stand against the just Arab goals. This will help lay the foundation for sound strategy, based on evaluating capabilities correctly and evaluating the enemy front realistically.

There is also a basic fact which must be reiterated, namely, that the regime of King Husayn is already condemned by the masses of our nation. Therefore, he is unable to achieve the imperialist and Zionist aims through his participation in the direct negotiations. He who is isolated on the Arab level cannot break down the isolation of As-Sadat, and he who is rejected by the masses cannot be an acceptable alternative to the PLO to represent the Palestinians. He who has an ugly image cannot distort the image of the front of steadfastness and confrontation through his participation in As-Sadat's humiliating negotiations. This is the truth, and it is a basic truth. The imperialists, the Zionists and the reactionaries are burning their cards one after the other and will detonate the time bombs in their own hands.

BAGHDAD VOP ATTACKS 'ARAFAT'S U.S. CONTACTS

JN282214Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Arab brothers: In the recent past and while the Zionist delegations were pouring into Cairo to hold negotiations with the As-Sadat regime, some of the PLO leaders were in their pulpits preaching opposition to the As-Sadat move and calling for continued armed struggle against the Zionists and all the enemies of our revolution. Whoever listened to those leaders was almost deceived into believing that they were really against a political settlement. However, those who know their moves, positions and relations and also their connections and roles will readily realize that they were talking out of both sides of their mouths: one side for local consumption and the other to express their real intentions.

We are not going to review the stands of the PLO leaders and their contacts under numerous covers with the Zionists in Europe and other countries. We also do not want to recall their speeches in this or that capital or their statements to this or that paper. We will be satisfied with 'Arafat's 5 January letter to Carter reported in Washington 2 days ago by Republican Congressman Paul Findley. This letter, despite its brevity, has an important meaning and is only part of hitherto unrevealed material. 'Arafat's letter includes a number of points, the most important of which are the following:

First, his agreement to a state of no war with the Zionists. This means "no" to the armed popular struggle and "no" to fighting the enemy.

Second, his expressed hope that the PLO leadership will take part in the current negotiations for a settlement between the As-Sadat regime and the enemy. This means he hopes that there will be room for him at the negotiating table with the Zionists as the United States sees fit.

Third, his support for U.S. initiatives in the region and his desire to have a dialog with the U.S. Government. This shows 'Arafat's belief that the hands of the United States are clean and that it is sincere in its intentions and aims.

This is the letter from the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. We leave judgment of this letter to you, brothers. We do not want to voice our opinion on this letter. We know 'Arafat, his steps and intentions, his relations and his gambles. We know him, his size and his place. Our masses also know him and are aware of the role of the PLO leadership move when it acts this way? Does it act in the name of the Palestinian revolution? If so, then is there anything in the Palestine National Charter commensurate with such acts? Has the PLO leadership reviewed the charter and read its paragraphs? Has it tried to get answers to the many questions on the current political situation from the words of the charter?

Our masses must not think for a moment that 'Arafat and the symbols of the PLO leadership will come out of the settlement circle or change their convictions and aims. The progressive and nationalist forces, but not the PLO leadership, are able to read 'Arafat's letter thoroughly. This leadership has raised and is still raising the slogan of the independence of Palestinian decisions. Events have shown that these decisions sometimes come from Damascus, sometimes from Cairo and sometimes even from Riyadh. They are now looking for decisions from the United States.

We do not believe that what 'Arafat has done is a Palestinian decision. What does the state of no war with the Zionist mean? What does begging for a place in the negotiations mean? What does the appreciation of the imperialist role mean? There is no need for a reply to these questions, and we do not want an answer to them. We only hope that all of us will realize his role at this delicate stage so we can face all the maneuvers and challenge and abort them. It is a revolution until victory.

VOP SEES ATTEMPT TO SCARE ARABS IN CIA REPORT

JN271513Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The CIA has resumed its psychological campaign by saying that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, with the aim of terrifying the Arab nation and peddling the imperialist-Zionist schemes to solve the Middle East problem. The U.S. intelligence organs have expressed their conviction that Israel has been producing atomic arms since 1974 by means of the uranium Israel managed to confiscate through secret methods. Quarters which are very close to the Zionist Foreign Ministry have reported that Israel was not the first to bring nuclear weapons to the Middle East area. During a lecture in Tel Aviv yesterday, Moshe Dayan claimed that one of the causes which (?prompted) As-Sadat to carry out his initiative and to make his visit to Jerusalem was the information disclosed about Israel's nuclear capability.

ARAB TRADE UNIONS STATEMENT ASSAILS TUNISIA

JN281922Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 January--The General Secretariat of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions has condemned the reactionary actions of the Tunisian authorities against the Tunisian laborers and workers. In a statement issued today the secretariat reiterated that the Arab workers stand by their brother Tunisian workers and their representative, the Tunisian labor union, in their legitimate demands for freedom, progress and social justice. The statement demands that the Tunisian authorities respect the rights and freedom of the trade union movement, release the detained union leaders and stop all actions against the Tunisian trade union movement. The General Secretariat called on the organizations of the Arab workers and people in the Arab world to firmly stand by the struggle of their brother Tunisian workers and give them all possible support. It also called on international trade union movements to condemn the attempts of the Tunisian authorities to defeat the workers and usurp their rights and freedom.

The statement concluded by saying that the souls and blood of the martyred workers will not be in vain and oppression will not put them under the system of the authorities. The blood and souls of the martyred workers will only increase their steadfastness until their just demands are achieved.

'ARAFAT HOLDS TALKS WITH WALID JUNBLATT

JN311605Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar last night met with Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], at the residence of party command member Tawfiq Sultan. The meeting was also attended by comrade George Hawi, deputy chairman of the central political council of the Lebanese progressive forces and parties, and Comrade Muhsin Ibrahim, the council's executive secretary general. The radio correspondent has learned that during the meeting talks were held on the latest developments on the Palestinian, Lebanese and Arab levels as well as on current preparations for the convening of the summit conference of steadfastness and confrontation in Algiers.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES WORLD PEACE COUNCIL OFFICIAL

JN291500Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday evening received Bahij Nassar, secretary of the World Peace Council. The meeting was attended by 'Abdallah Hurani, deputy chairman of the World Peace Council and secretary general of the Palestinian Committee on Peace and Solidarity.

Our radio correspondent has learned that the secretary of the World Peace Council conveyed to brother leader Abu 'Ammar a message from Romesh Chandra, chairman of the World Peace Council, in which he expressed the support of the council and of all national peace councils for the Palestinian revolution and the struggle of the Palestinian people for their inalienable rights, the foremost of which are their rights to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to their national independent state.

Bahij Nassar also reviewed for brother Abu 'Ammar the programs and activities of the World Peace Council for the coming months expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and consolidating world public opinion in support of the Palestinian cause.

'ARAFAT SENDS LETTER TO SHAH ON TIES WITH IRAN

JN281709Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has sent a letter to the shah of Iran. It was learned that Sa'id Kamal, deputy head of the PLO Political Department, handed over the letter to the Iranian ambassador in Cairo [as heard]. The letter deals with the current Arab situation and the relations between the PLO and Iran.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL CALLS FOR PLO REORGANIZATION

JN271401Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1226 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 27 January--Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front and secretary of the Palestinian rejection front, has stated that the Palestinian cause is now passing through a very crucial and dangerous stage as the practical steps to liquidate it have been completely revealed in the wake of As-Sadat's treasonable moves.

In a statement to NIDAL ASH-SHA'B [PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE] magazine, Dr Ghawshah called for speeding up the creation of a front of steadfastness and liberation on clear bases, for formulating a pact determining strategic confrontation with the enemy camp and for drafting a program for our struggles on the political, military and popular levels.

He pointed out the agreement signed by the resistance groups in Tripoli last month and said that if national unity is to be achieved, several measures must be taken. The most important are to hold intensive meetings among Palestinian resistance leaders so as to reach agreement on political, struggle and organizational programs, and have them adopted by the Palestine National Council; to reorganize the PLO legislative and executive institutions; to have all the struggling Palestinian forces participate in a collective leadership; and to purge and isolate elements which deviate from the national position.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER LEAVES FOR GENEVA OPEC PRICE TALKS

LD311118Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Oil Minister 'Abd al-Mutalib al-Kazimi left for Geneva at noon today heading a delegation including four officials of the ministry to attend the meetings of the OPEC ministerial subcommittee. It is expected that the committee will begin its work in Geneva tomorrow to discuss the price differentials for heavy oil.

OIL MINISTER CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING DOLLAR

LD311120Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Oil Minister 'Abd al-Mutalib al-Kazimi stated that Kuwait and other major oil-exporting countries are losing 20 percent of the value of their oil as a result of the fall in the price of the dollar. In a statement published by the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH and carried by news agencies, the minister calls on the United States to maintain the price, strength and firmness of the dollar. He said that if the dollar continues to fall OPEC countries will search for another currency so that they do not lose on their oil every year. Minister al-Kazimi proposed to OPEC countries to draw up a program in advance for the next 5 years that stipulates logical price increases once every 4 months or each year so that these increases may keep in line with the inflation of world prices.

On the oil surplus in the world markets, the minister said that, had it not been for the attitude of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on reducing their production in 1975, OPEC and its member states would have been exposed to a calamity.

SHAYKH SA'D AL-'ABDALLAH NAMED HEIR APPARENT

NC311946Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 31 January--The appointment of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as heir apparent was announced in Kuwait today. The Kuwaiti amir's office issued a statement this evening to that effect. Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah was interior and defense minister before his appointment as heir apparent. The statement did not say whether he will keep these portfolios in addition to his post as heir apparent. The decision was made by Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. Kuwait radio interrupted its evening transmission to announce this.

AS-SIYASAH: U.S. SEEKING TO CONSOLIDATE HEGEMONY

LD312230Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 30 Jan 78 pp 1, 15 LD

[Excerpts] Washington, AS-SIYASAH--The U.S. leadership is currently considering a plan to face a "semiwar" that may break out in the Middle East between the Arabs and Israelis.

The plan, which has been ordered by U.S. Defense Secretary George Brown, is to prevent war in the Middle East, if it breaks out, from reaching a conclusion. According to George Brown's announcement, U.S. forces will be landed in the battle areas and the task of these forces will be to strike quickly in order to end the fighting before any of the parties determines its outcome.

However, this part of the plan is not explicitly stated in Defense Secretary Brown's orders to the commanders of the U.S. forces. According to the Washington POST, the U.S. plan ordered by Brown will remain effective in the Pentagon files from 1980 to 1984.

In the clause concerning the possibility of intervening in the gulf in order to face the Soviets, according to Brown, the United States has drawn up plans for what he terms the current conflicts in the gulf because such conflicts, in his opinion, weaken the cohesion of NATO states and consequently NATO forces.

According to the details of the U.S. plan for the coming stage, Brown has ordered commanders of U.S. units to reassess their strength from several aspects as well as to form quick strike units comprised of army and marine units (100,000 men) in order to face sudden disturbances in the gulf and other areas. Part of the U.S. defense secretary's statement on the subject was released earlier.

Despite the fact that the release of such details regarding the U.S. plan is not entirely free of exaggerations aimed at scaring other people, the U.S. Administration definitely has plans to preserve and even consolidate U.S. hegemony, even if by force, in the areas to which the Washington POST referred in quoting the defense secretary.

It is to be noted that the leaking of these Pentagon orders coincides with the leaking of the CIA report on Israel's possession of neclear weapons. This has been done in a clever manner and with the aim of maintaining the impact of such leaks on those concerned. The CIA said yesterday that "it was wrong to publish an agency document drawing the conclusion that Israel has been in possession of nuclear weapons since 1974." The release of the document last Thursday was done in accordance with the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.

The CIA spokesman said that "the agency officials are trying to find cut how the report was published."

QATAR

AMIR URGES WORLD STATES TO SUPPORT PEACE EFFORTS

NC311145Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 31 January--His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, has appealed to the governments and people of the big states to cooperate by taking positive, effective and urgent steps to spare the world from the consequences of the collapse of the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations and the exposure of these negotiations to ultimate failure because of Israel's stubborn insistence on continuing its aggression against Arab rights by clinging to the Arab territory which Israel usurped by war and on continuing to deny the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland and determine their own fate on the soil of this homeland.

The amir of Qatar made this appeal in a letter which he asked FRG Ambassador in Doha Juergen Hellmer to deliver to FRG President Walter Scheel. The amir received the ambassador in his office at Doha palace this morning.

This is one of several meetings which his highness the amir of Qatar is holding with the ambassadors of the big states to ask them to convey identical letters to the presidents of their states.

In these letters the amir emphasizes the Arab nation's attitude, an attitude through which the Arab nation is implementing the unanimous will of the world to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the area by exerting every effort to achieve this will under the aegis of international law. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani last week received the ambassadors of the United States, Britain and France for the same purpose. QNA has learned that, in his letter, his highness the amir is urging the presidents of the four big states to play--both individually and jointly--the basic and decisive role dictated to them by their responsibility for international peace and security.

In the four letters, his highness also emphasizes the belief of the Arab nation--which is in total and unanimous agreement on the need to recover its territories and wrest its usurped rights--that the potential and capabilities at the Arab nation's disposal guarantee total fulfillment of this objective.

His highness the amir of the State of Qatar also affirms that the world must take into consideration the fact that, until the international community secures respect for its will through the achievement of the Arabs' rights, peace in the world and particularly in the area will continue to be exposed to the greatest dangers and will suffer from the great harm which will consequently befall peace in the world and in this area.

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ CALLS ON 'FREE WORLD' TO CONFRONT COMMUNISM

LD301930Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 27 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] The communist contest for the Horn of Africa has heated up following China's entry into the arena with Moscow in its expansionist and aggressive policy. The situation in this vital area of the world calls for serious action either by the United States or the West as a whole in order to remove the communist opportunity to threaten world peace and security.

It appears that the communists--whose policy in the Arab world has failed and the attitudes of whose Arab leftist supporters, who are affiliated with the communist ideologies of Moscow or Peking, have been exposed--are now looking for a new arena in which they can achieve their ambitions and make up for their failure and the failure of the Arab left.

Events have proved that the indifference of the United States and the West, either because of implementing the policy of spheres of influence or of placing safety above all else, has contributed greatly to the Soviet presence in the Middle East. Such indifference is today contributing more dangerously toward the communist presence in the Horn of Africa and the approaches to the Red Sea.

This new communist role calls for serious and decisive action by the West, in view of what Africa represents to the whole world, to insure that the conflict in one area will not extend to another in a more violent manner. Such confrontation is a dire necessity to insure the progress of humanity.

The communists extend their influence by promoting corruption and by pursuing a policy that creates tension in vital areas of the world so that these areas will need them.

The free world today is called upon more than at any time before to face this communist infiltration, particularly after China has declared its entry into the arena of the Horn of Africa not in order to confront Russia--as it claims--but so that it, too, will gain an area of its own and not be excluded from this communist plundering.

The free world, which today is showing laxity in the confrontation with communism, must change its policy so that the situation in the area will not get out of control and so that the communist dragon will not swallow it for good.

UAE

ARMED FORCES APPOINTMENTS, REORGANIZATION REPORTED

NC312031Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1928 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 31 January--UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan tonight issued a decree appointing Col Sultan ibn Zayid as commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces after promoting him to the rank of brigadier general. Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, in his capacity as supreme commander of the armed forces, issued decision No 1 of 1978 on completing the organization of the armed forces in the state.

The decision aims at completing the unification and reorganization of the armed forces by completely merging the land and the naval forces at all levels and abolishing the commands in the western, central and northern military areas. The forces in thise areas will be turned into brigades and regular military formations directly attached to the general command of the armed forces in accordance with the recommendations of the committee which was set up by the Supreme Council to implement the phase of completing the organization of the armed forces. This was in accordance with the constitutional amendment approved by the Supreme Council in 1976, which provides that the state alone has the right to establish land, naval and air forces. The Defense Ministry and the command of the armed forces will implement the decision of the supreme commander regarding all aspects of commands and reorganization as of tomorrow, Wednesday.

The QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi reports: Henceforth, the UAE Armed Forces will be supervised by the Ministry of Defense under Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid, the general command, which is being established for the first time, will be under Brig Gen Sultan ibn Zayid; and the chief of the general staff will be Staff Maj Gen 'Awdi al-Khalidi. The important western military area was under the command of Brig Gen Sultan ibn Zayid; the central military area was under Col Shaykh Ahmad ibn Rashid Almaktum; and the northern military area was under the command of Col Shaykh Sultan ibn Saqr al-Qasimi.

YEMEN--PDRY

HASANI LEADS GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO USSR

LD312008Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani left this afternoon at the head of a government delegation on an official visit to the USSR.

"The brother prime minister told the press shortly before his departure that his visit to the USSR, like other visits and meetings between the leaders of the two parties and governments of the two friendly countries, would provide an opportunity to exchange views on the most important issues concerning the two countries jointly, including the situations in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa; as well as to take steps toward developing bilateral cooperation, thus meeting the aspirations of our two peoples for their mutual advancement."

"The brother prime minister expressed satisfaction at the continued development which had recently characterized PDRY-Soviet cooperation. He stressed that his current visit to the USSR constituted an effective contribution toward the development of the relations of cooperation and friendship between the peoples, governments and parties of the two countries, saying that it would produce positive results, particularly inasmuch as the Soviet leaders and the friendly Soviet people reciprocated the wishes of the leaders and people of Democratic Yemen in this respect.

"Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani, Politburo member and prime minister, added: While expressing our gratitude and appreciation for the invitation of the Soviet government to pay this official visit to Moscow, we laud the honorable positions adopted by the USSR toward our pan-Arab causes, including that of its support for the Palestinian people's struggle and its manifold backing for aspects [as heard] of the struggle of our Arab people against imperialism and Zionism and for the sake of their national liberation and social progress. The brother prime minister expressed great appreciation for the help the USSR had provided our country during the past."

The delegation accompanying the prime minister includes Foreign Minister Muhammad as-Salih Muti'; Defense Minister Lt Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar; Installations Minister Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Information Minister Ahmad Salim Ubayd; Maj Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, chief of general staff of the Defense Ministry; and a number of other officials.

BRIEFS

SAUDI DELEGATION IN KUWAIT--The Saudi delegation to the 3-day meeting of the Kuwaiti-Saudi Joint Committee, due to begin in Kuwait the day after tomorrow, arrived in Kuwait this afternoon. The delegation is led by the finance under secretary for economic affairs, Dr Mansur 'Abd al-'Aziz Turki. [Excerpt] [Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 78 LD]

MOROCCAN MINISTER LEAVES RIYADH--Abdellatif Ghissassi, Moroccan minister of finance, this morning left Riyadh for Jidda on his way home following a few days' visit to the kingdom. During his visit Ghissassi held talks with Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance and national economy, which led to the signing of an agreement under which the Saudi Fund for Development is to give Morocco a loan of 120 million riyals to help finance the Al-Masirah dam project and the building of two electric stations and transmission lines 200 km long. The total cost of the project is $167 million, part of which will be financed by the IBRD. [Text] [Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jan 78 LD]

MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS RESUME IN CAIRO 31 JAN

Military Spokesman's Statement

NC312121Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Maj Gen Hasan al-Katib, the official military spokesman, has issued the following joint statement: The second round of meetings of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee began in Cairo tonight. The session was opened with statements by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, and 'Ezer Weizman, Israeli minister of defense.

The session lasted about 2 hours. The committee will resume its meetings at 1000 tomorrow.

Settlements, Airfields on Agenda

NC311912Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1901 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 January--The Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee resumed its meetings this evening at At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo. The Egyptian side was headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi and the Israeli side was headed by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

MENA's military editor has learned that the question of the Israeli settlements and airfields in Sinai are the major issues on the committee's agenda and that during their meetings the Egyptian and Israeli sides will discuss all military problems connected with the Israeli withdrawal. The committee is scheduled to continue its meetings tomorrow morning.

Jerusalem Radio Report

TA312117Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 31 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Israel and Egypt today resumed the negotiations of the Military Committee following an informal meeting lasting an hour between Defense Minister Weizman and his Egyptian colleague, General al-Jamasi.

The negotiations began behind closed doors. An Israeli spokesman in Cairo said that so far no agenda for the talks has been determined, but that he expects the agenda to be formulated. Egyptian sources said that the Egyptian position has not changed; Egypt demands complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the removal of the settlements.

On arriving in Cairo Minister Weizman said that he and Al-Jamasi will try to achieve real results and will not settle for mere talk. Today's meeting lasted about 2 hours. The committee will resume its deliberations at 1000 tomorrow morning.

VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK RETURNS TO CAIRO 31 JAN

NC311930Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Vice President Husni Mubarak returned home tonight after a 4-hour visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn, to whom he conveyed a message from President Anwar as-Sadat regarding the development of current events.

Husni Mubarak said on arrival that he would submit a report to the president tomorrow on the results of the talks he had during his tour.

Mubarak had told newsmen in Amman that he had sensed complete confidence and support for Egypt's position from the Arab leaders and officials he met in the Arab states he visited. He also sensed their appreciation of Egypt's keen desire for the restoration of all Arab rights and insistence on reaching a comprehensive solution, as is evident from the course of the negotiations.

Mubarak Arrival Statement

NC3122147 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Statement by Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak on arrival in Cairo following tour of Arab countries--recorded]

[Text] Actually, during this tour we explained to the presidents and kings of developments in the situation in the area following the Ismailia conference, before and during the Political Committee meeting in Jerusalem, the withdrawal from the Political Committee in Jerusalem on President as-Sadat's decision, and the reasons for this withdrawal. We also explained all the contacts which took place between President as-Sadat and U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Secretary of State Vance in Jerusalem and the developments in the situation up to the time President as-Sadat received an invitation to visit the United States at the end of this week.

All the leaders truly understood Egypt's position. They bless all Egyptian moves. I was asked many times about the extent of success of the current move. I pointed out to all of them that we will proceed along the road to peace to the end. We have obtained a great result from the peace initiatives: the support of U.S., European and world public opinion on the question. This is very important.

We will proceed along the road to peace to the end. If we do not arrive at peace after exerting all possible efforts, we will then have another solution. We ask God to grant us success in reaching a just solution under the leadership of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ATHERTON ACTIVITIES IN CAIRO

Meets with Kamil 31 Jan

NC3114567 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1354 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31, January--MENA has learned that during his talks today with Alfred Atherton, the U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil concentrated on Egypt's stand regarding the declaration of peace principles.

This stand includes Egypt's insistence on complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and its rejection of occupation of a single inch of its territories, in implementation of the principle that occupation of territories by force is inadmissible, and on the total withdrawal from the occupied territories. It also includes the affirmation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, a right which has been guaranteed under all international laws and charters, together with the right of the peoples in the region to live in peace within secure borders.

MENA has also learned that the Foreign Ministry is currently studying ideas which Atherton submitted today in order to formulate Egypt's views on them.

Kamil Discusses Meeting

NC312148Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2132 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 January--Answering questions by reporters this evening about the impressions he formed from his meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that the United States is trying in all seriousness to promote common grounds between the two sides. He said this is not easy because naturally there are differences on basic issues, but efforts are being made and we hope that these efforts will lead to a just, comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

Answering another question, he said that Mr Atherton held talks in Israel and conveyed to us a number of ideas from there, and we will convey to him a number of our ideas. The next stage, he said, will be determined "in particular after the president's visit to the United States."

Meanwhile, MENA has learned that Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil reported to President as-Sadat on his talks with Alfred Atherton this morning and the ideas he brought from Israel. The foreign minister will meet with Alfred Atherton again tomorrow morning. Atherton will leave Egypt on Thursday.

Meets With Kamil 1 Feb

NC010959Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 February--The second round of discussion between Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton was held at 1105 today. The discussions were attended on the Egyptian side by Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, the director of the minister's office, and on the American side by Ambassador Hermann Eilts and David Korn, a planning adviser at the U.S. State Department.

After his second round of discussions with Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, which lasted about an hour and a quarter, Alfred Atherton said that Kamil submitted certain Egyptian ideas to him about the draft declaration of principles. He added: We will study these ideas to see how we can make progress. Atherton told reporters that he believes there are still differences to be overcome and that this is the purpose of the current negotiations process. He described today's session as a good one for completing the discussions which began yesterday. He added: As I said before, I told the Egyptian minister of some ideas that I brought as a result of my discussions in Israel within the framework of pushing the peace process forward. These ideas are connected with the declaration of the principles of peace. I discussed these ideas with him and he submitted some Egyptian ideas, which we will study.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that he has heard some of the ideas which Atherton brought and that he in turn has submitted some Egyptian ideas and remarks on these ideas. The foreign minister added that during today's meeting he discussed with Atherton the arrangements for and some subjects connected with President as-Sadat's visit to the United States.

To Leave for U.S. 2 Feb

NC311846Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1838 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 January--U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts will leave Cairo for Washington the day after tomorrow, Thursday, to be there to welcome President as-Sadat.

'AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE' DENIES RECENT WEIZMAN VISIT

NC311856Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1849 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 January--An authoritative source has told MENA that the report by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS that Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman visited Egypt secretly last Sunday is untrue.

AS-SADAT ENVOY LEAVES CAIRO FOR PEKING 1 FEB

NC011228Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1149 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 February--Muhammad Hasan at-Tuhami, the deputy prime minister at the president's office, left Cairo today for Peking as the special envoy of President as-Sadat. His visit will last several days. At-Tuhami is carrying a letter from President as-Sadat to PRC Chairman Hua Kuo-feng.

Muhammad Hasan at-Tuhami will arrive in the Chinese capital tomorrow morning. He will hold comprehensive discussions with the Chinese leaders on all developments in the Palestinian question, the Middle East dispute. the Arab stand toward the establishment of a just peace in the area, Israel's attitude toward this peace, the consequences of President as-Sadat's initiative in going to Jerusalem, and the effect of this initiative on the international situation. The Egyptian envoy and the Chinese leaders will also discuss improving the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

It is worth noting that the PRC, as a friend of Egypt and the Arabs, is interested in the developments of the Palestinian question, the rights of the Palestinians and Arabs and the security of the Middle East and Africa.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES U.S. JEWISH DELEGATION 31 JAN

NC311554Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 January--Today President Anwar as-Sadat received Jewish Rabbi (Joseph Brenker Benz), who was accompanied by a delegation of the American Jewish (?convention).

Press Conference Follows Meeting

NC010650Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has announced that the real issue which is holding up the negotiations is the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people's right to determine their own fate. His excellency said that there can be no bargaining on this cause. The president explained that it is not expected that the Egyptian and Israeli sides will differ greatly over Sinai. President as-Sadat affirmed that Egypt's rights in Sinai are clear, including the question of the settlements.

At the press conference which he held following his meeting with the peace delegation [of American Jews], President as-Sadat said: The Egyptian people want the United States to take a firm stand, a stand which would lay the groundwork for the solution of the intricate problems barring the way to peace. The president added: The Egyptian people are right in this, although this does not mean that the Egyptian people deny what the United States has done and what it is now doing.

President as-Sadat expressed his belief that Egypt has placed no obstacles on the road to peace, although the talks during the upcoming phase will be difficult and complicated.

The president pointed out that he does not expect substantive statements to be issued following his talks with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, because it is imperative for the U.S. Government to hold discussions with other parties, including Israel.

President as-Sadat hinted that Egypt has submitted to the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee a six-point plan which provides for Israeli security needs, on the condition that these needs are not met at the expense of Egypt's sovereignty.

FRENCH PRESIDENT INVITES AS-SADAT FOR TALKS

NC311839Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 January--French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing telephoned President Anwar as-Sadat today and invited him to stay overnight in Paris for a working dinner and talks. President as-Sadat welcomed President Giscard's request.

MILITARY COURT SENTENCES AT-TAKFIR WA AL-HIJRAH MEMBERS

NC312100Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 January--The second chamber of the Supreme Military Court issued sentences today in the cases of members of the At-Takfir wa al-Hijrah secret organization in which 204 persons, including 22 women, are accused of attempting to overthrow the social system in Egypt, of disavowing Egyptian society, not recognizing its laws and evading military service.

The sentences range from 2 years to 6 months for (?35) of the accused, while 169 were acquitted. The weapons, ammunition and written documents which were seized in the case have been confiscated. The Supreme Military Court began hearing the case on October 24.

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO DETROIT ISLAMIC SEMINAR

NC281320Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1117 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 28 January--In a message he addressed to the world Islamic seminar currently being held in Detroit, President as-Sadat said that he launched his initiative after the October victory, which surpassed the imagination of men who are authorities on war in the entire world. In his message, delivered on his behalf by Muhammad Tawfiq 'Uwaydan, secretary general of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs, President as-Sadat said that our Islamic religion resorts to war only when no way is left for peace. The text of the message follows:

Brothers and sisters, it gives me pleasure to send you greetings across the great ocean, together with my sincere affection and best wishes for you and your countries.

Your great Islamic meeting truly represents a union of brothers joined by ties of friendship and love. I have no doubt that this same annual meeting is a splendid, constant manifestation of your unity, sound thinking, and aspiration to high ideals.

Brothers and sisters, I seize the opportunity of your meeting of friendship and goodness to give you a brief picture of what we are doing in Egypt.

I had thought deeply and sought God's guidance when I embarked on a step in the interests of Egypt, the Arab nation and the whole world. That was my visit to Jerusalem, which initiated my call for sincere and pure peace. The aim was to propel the issue out of its deep slumber and out of a vicious circle dealing with useless procedural matters about the convening of the Geneva conference.

My initiative was a positive step to spare the area the calamities of a new war, the effects of which only God knows--effects and calamities that would directly affect the whole world. I had expected this initiative to come as a surprise but I did not imagine that this surprise would shake the whole world, please all free peoples, and be welcomed by everyone. But this was the case, because the initiative meant doing away with the threat of war which takes life, sheds blood, turns wives into widows and children into orphans, bereaves fathers and mothers, and creates grudges that last for generations.

The whole world knows that I launched this initiative after God granted us victory in October 1973. It was a victory that surpassed the imagination of men who are authorities on war in the whole world. The valiant Egyptian Army thus raised its triumphant head and every Egyptian proudly hailed his army. Every Arab had the right to open eyes that had been closed in shame, and the whole world realized that Egypt has a strong and a good army. All this means that I extended my hand for peace while I was strong, and sought peace for a healthy Egypt and for all the Arabs.

Can anyone doubt the advantages of peace for the Arab nation and the whole world? The Moslem religion will not resort to war except after exhausting all peaceful means because peace is the fundamental principle in relations among people who are brothers. War is detested; it is welcomed only by a very few warmongers who seek to prosper through death, bloodshed and the destruction of peoples' wealth.

In talking to you about peace, our sincere desire for peace and the support of the whole free world, I will not forget to convey my profound thanks to all the states--the foremost of which is the United States--which supported our strong peaceful stand.

I beg God to grant victory for peace over war, love over hate and good over evil. My peace initiative did not end with my visit to Jerusalem. Therefore, I ask the whole world to realize that if this initiative is not adopted in letter and spirit and with positive action there will be serious destructive consequences, the responsibility for which must be borne by those seeking to delay this initiative for several generations.

Brothers and sisters, I ask God to grant you success. My best wishes. May God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you.

AS-SADAT, OTHER LEADERS ATTEND POETRY SOIREE 31 JAN

NC311952Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat tonight attended the poetry soiree held at the Zakariya al-Hajjawi theater. The president unveiled a statue for the late artist Zakariya al-Hajjawi. He also inspected some possessions and writings of Zakariya al-Hajjawi.

An Egyptian popular soiree was held. The soiree was attended by Speaker of the People's Assembly Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, the ministers and senior state officials. Minister of Culture and Information 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi delivered a speech at the beginning of the soiree.

RADIO CRITICIZES ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY

NC3116412 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Commentary by Hazim 'Abd ar-Rahman: "Settlements and Peace in the Middle East"]

[Text] The issue of Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories raises a number of problems and questions related to the justifications and pretexts Israel uses for continuing this activity. The question of further settlement activity raises critical doubts about the possibilities of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Last night Israeli television reported that three settlements are to be established in Nabulus, which is one of the major cities in the West Bank, and that this is in accordance with an Israeli Government decision.

Israel has exploited the question of settlements in order to change the present status in the occupied Arab territories and to create new conditions to help it retain control over the areas in which these settlements are established.

The seriousness of this issue is evident if we remember that Israel started with settlements, which subsequently altered the topographic and demographic status of the area and eventually gave the settlers a political status. In the view of historians, the settlements issue set off the first stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which was followed by other stages and reached a climax in June 1967. The settlement activity in the period after June 1967 caused concern to observers and international organizations, which saw such activity as clear evidence of Israel's expansionist character.

Israeli plans, declarations and maps indicate that strategic sites are chosen for these settlements and that every series of settlements is in effect a belt around an area regarded as important from the Israeli military viewpoint. All this is based on Israel's assumption that it is in hostile territory and that such belts guarantee Israel's security. Such pretexts are used to justify colonial settlements along the northern Sinai coastal area, the Golan, the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

The settlement operation and its results--seizing other people's land, uprooting the inhabitants and replacing them with others--are incompatible with any peaceful intentions. The new settlements in the occupied Arab territories are advance military garrisons. Perhaps it is worthwhile to ponder the consequences of the establishment of more and more Israeli settlements within the framework of current efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, efforts which have been pushed forward by the Egyptian peace moves.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter has described the settlement activity as an obstacle to peace and has said that it has no basis in international law. U.S. diplomacy should therefore take other steps, not just express profound regret and condemn the establishment of Isreali settlements.

As President as-Sadat said in his speech to the nation on 21 January, the U.S. policy of supplying arms to Israel is primarily responsible for Israeli intransigence toward the efforts for peace in the area. If we are to draw a conclusion from such intransigence and its manifestations we find that the settlements issue means the continued establishment of new settlements, expansion of old settlements, and plans to turn some of these settlements into towns.

News agencies have indicated that the Egyptian-Israeli differences include a number of questions, including the question of settlements and the Israeli desire for continued occupation of Arab territories under the guise of protecting the settlements. These were among the main issues which led to the interruption of the talks between the two sides on 18 January.

If the military talks begin tonight in Cairo, their fate depends in part on the settlements question. The U.S. Government should prove its concern to push forward the efforts for peace in the Middle East with firm action in this respect.

AS-SADAT NOMINATED FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

NC3119547 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] At noon today President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, Minister of Information and Culture 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi and Minister of Housing and Reconstruction Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi.

The minister of information and culture handed the president a copy of his nomination by the Higher Council for Arts and Literature for the Nobel Peace Prize following the president's initiative for peace in the Middle East--an initiative which can only stem from a deep faith in God, morality and mankind.

The president gave the prime minister his views on building the future in the coming phase through social justice among all sectors of the society, under which able citizens will shoulder additional burdens in building the society through the tax bill now before the People's Assembly. The president said: By this law we can achieve justice in society through determining exemptions for citizens with limited income while able citizens will remit taxes appropriate to their income.

The president's directive is that we will not surpress the freedom to profit as long as it is linked with production and with building and developing society. At the same time, we believe that able citizens should shoulder their fair share in providing the foundation necessary for building the society.

AL-AHRAM NOTES ISRAEL TO LAUNCH PRESS CAMPAIGN

LD301346Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Jan 78 p 6 LD

[Ra'id 'Attar article: "Prior Warning for the First Time"]

[Excerpts] Israeli radio said yesterday that the Israeli Government "will launch a large-scale campaign in the United States to explain Israel's position regarding President as-Sadat's 'suspension' of the peace talks in a bid to bring pressure on it."

What is interesting in this report is that for the first time Israel, contrary to its custom, has declared in advance that it will launch a campaign despite the fact that its other campaigns to brainwash Uncle Sam have never ceased.

The prior warning by the Israeli radio, which throws down the gauntlet to the Arab media, has been accompanied by the escalating attack which Begin, his Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, and their aides have been waging against the Egyptian press.

The U.S. State Department has kindly invited me to fly to Washington so I can arrive before next Saturday evening in order to take part in an information confrontation and political dialog regarding the "present situation."

Although I know this means that this column will probably be missed by its readers for a period of 3 weeks, I have decided--with the help of God--to challenge the Zionist domination of U.S. media right in its own home.

The program of confrontation includes dialog with State and Defense Department officials, as well as with U.S. policymakers concerned with the Middle East, such as chairmen and members of congressional committees on Capitol Hill, and later at a meeting at the White House.

I am discussing this beforenand to point out to the public, which is thirsting for a just peace, the following two significant matters:

First, among the six Middle East countries carefully or deliberately chosen to take part in this confrontation the Arab side includes those who represent the rejection states and the states sitting on the fence or adopting a fluctuating stand. The enemy will, no doubt, be only too pleased to see that the Arab side will not be objective and not adhere to national stands by adopting divisive attitudes. Thus the occasion will turn from discussion on a civilized platform, in order to "provide an outlet of truth to all concerned" that the people of the world would believe in, to a "trap" that could harm Arab rights.

Second, the Zionist lobby groups which will have to be confronted under this program are called upon in advance to stick to the "spirit of peace" and not to seek to destroy it.

But unfortunately, we find that some of the fanatic Zionist groups believe in the need to revive the idea of "anti-Semitism" at present because it would drive the world Zionist forces to financial positions that are destructive to peace and bring pressure on the U.S. administration, as well as encourage the Jews to migrate to Israel in order to save it from the anti-Semites. But we tell this group that they should try something different--different from the game of anti-Semitism which has already been exposed.

AS-SADAT TO INSPECT FOOD, CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

NC192129Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Jan 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will visit the new agricultural areas in Al-Jizah, Al-Fayyum and Al-Wadi Al-Jadid provinces and in Al-Wahat and (Tushkah) Canal in Aswan in order to personally inspect the progress being made in implementing the food supply and food security program to which he is paying special attention.

The visit will take place in February. The president's itinerary includes the inspection of major construction projects in various provinces of the republic to reassure himself of the progress of work there.

HUNGARIAN PEACE DELEGATION VISITS; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

AU3119201 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 27 Jan 78 p 2 AU

[Hungarian-Iraqi Joint Communique on Baghdad Talks of a National Peace Council Delegation]

[Text] A national peace council delegation led by Mrs Nandor Sebestyen, its secretary general and member of the WPC Presidium, toured the Middle East recently and visited Iraq from 7-11 January. The Iraqi National Council for Peace and Solidarity and the national peace council delegations have issued a joint communique on their talks.

The communique notes, among other things, that the Hungarian delegation was received at the Iraqi National Council for Peace and Solidarity by Secretary General 'Aziz Sharif, WPC vice chairman. Dr Munif al-Razzaz, deputy secretary general of the Ba'th Party; and 'Aziz Muhammad, first secretary of the Iraqi Communist Party Central Committee, also received the delegation.

The communique issued on the Baghdad talks notes their sincere and cordial atmosphere. At the talks, the greatest attention was devoted to the Middle East issue.

As the communique states, the Iraqi and Hungarian peace movements condemn the activity, pursued in the spirit of imperialist-Zionist plans, aimed at separate agreements, that is directed by U.S. imperialist circles, with the approval of Arab reaction.

The purpose of these maneuvers is to "strike a blow at the Arab liberation movement, annihilate Palestinian resistance and reassert U.S. imperialist influence in the area and thus achieve a permanent Israeli occupation of the Arab territories."

The document points to the dangers of this. Among these, it notes in the first place the weakening of Arab unity and the attempts to isolate the Arab liberation movement and progressive forces from their natural allies, the socialist countries.

The parties emphatically stressed that a lasting and just reconciliation [megbekeles] in the Middle East can come about only on the basis of insuring the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and an Israeli withdrawal from the aggressively occupied territories.

The negotiating parties stressed the significance of the Arab progressive forces rearranging their ranks in the united front of the anti-imperialist struggle, in cooperation with the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist countries.

Our delegation informed its negotiating partners that, for his outstanding role in the international movement for peace and solidarity and his merits in intensifying friendship and cooperation between the Iraqi and Hungarian people, Secretary General 'Aziz Sharif has been awarded the "For Peace" Medal of Merit.

MINISTER RECEIVES HUNGARIAN TRANSPORT DELEGATION

JN290945Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 January--Transport Minister Dr Makram Jamal today received Istvan Tozser, director general of the Hungarian Department of Transportation and Postal Affairs in the Hungarian Ministry of Transporttation and Postal Affairs, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Hungarian ambassador in Baghdad, the conferees discussed cooperation in the field of transportation.

Talks Begin

JN291526Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 January--Iraqi-Hungarian talks began here today to conclude a cooperation agreement between the two countries in the field of land transport and to study transit matters. The talks are being held under 'Abd at-Tawab 'Abdallah al-Mulla Huwaysh, head of the Iraqi land transport establishment, and Istvan Tozser, director general of the Hungarian Post and Transport.

SUDANESE MINISTER OF ENERGY ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN301052Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 January--Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Ma'Mun 'Awad Abu Zayd arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a press statement upon his arrival, Abu Zayd said that he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on consolidating relations between Iraq and Sudan in all spheres.

Delivers Message to Al-Bakr

JN311118Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received a message from Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. The message was conveyed by Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Ma'mun 'Awad Abu Zayd during his meeting with President al-Bakr here this morning.

During the meeting, which was attended by RCC member and Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discusssed relations between Sudan and Iraq and the means to consolidate them in the interest of the Arab nation's issues.

Meets With Hammadi

JN301409Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 January--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met this afternoon with Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Ma'mun 'Awad Abu Zayd. During the meeting, which was attended by the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad, they discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and means of bolstering them.

Meets With Finance Minister

JN311455Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1428 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 January--Minister of Finance Fawzi 'Abdallah held a meeting in Baghdad today with Mr Ma'mun 'Awad Abu Zayd, Sudanese minister of energy and mining. The two ministers discussed economic relations between the two fraternal countries and the means to promote these relations. The Sudanese minister arrived in Baghdad yesterday on an official visit lasting several days.

AL-BAKR SPEAKS TO TRADE UNIONS EXECUTIVE

JN291914Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1743 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 January--President Ahmad Hasan Al-Bakr has stressed the importance of the pioneering role being played by the working class in the process of socialist transformation in Iraq. This will achieve success for the revolutionary construction, led by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, in order to make Iraq a center of enlightenment in the Arab area and the whole world. This came in a statement by President al-Bakr to the members of the executive office of the General Federation of the Iraqi Trade Unions today.

President al-Bakr on the plotting of imperialism and reaction surrounding our revolution said: The more advanced the positions the revolution takes, the greater the number that will confront the enemies. He called for defining the forces hostile to the revolution. He called for inspiring enthusiasm among the working classes and the sons of the people to continue construction and develop production.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR OPEC MEETING IN GENEVA

JN310742Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 January--The Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the OPEC ministerial committee left Baghdad for Geneva today. The committee, which is scheduled to convene tomorrow, will discuss price differentials for heavy-density oil and the possibility of finding a fixed timetable for these prices.

The delegation is led by Dr Abd al-Amir 'Amran, chairman of the Iraqi Fund for Foreign Development, and includes several economic researchers in the Oil Ministry.

The committee comprises five oil-producing countries: Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and Venezuela.

EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN311222Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak arrived in Amman today on a short visit to Jordan as part of his current tour of several Arab capitals. He was received by Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Court Minister 'Amir Khammash and several high-ranking officials.

During his stopover at Riyadh airport at noon today, on his way to Amman from Kuwait, Mubarak held talks with Saudi Crown Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Received by Husayn

NC311403Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1317 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Amman, 31 January--Jordan's King Husayn has received a message from President Anwar as-Sadat dealing with the outcome of the efforts being exerted by Egypt for the implementation of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

The Jordanian king received the message this afternoon when his majesty received Egyptian Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in the Al-Hashimiyyah Palace.

Husni Mubarak reviewed with His Majesty King Husayn developments in Egypt's contacts with the United States in the light of President as-Sadat's initiative and the results of the vice president's tour of the Arab states and Iran. The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif.

King Husayn gave a banquet in honor of Husni Mubarak who arrived in Amman this afternoon from Kuwait following a short stopover at Riyadh airport.

The vice president is scheduled to leave Amman today for Cairo. Tonight he will report to President Anwar as-Sadat concerning the outcome of his tour, which took him to nine Arab states and Iran.

Mubarak Departs, Makes Statement

JN311947Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Amman this evening following a short visit to Jordan.

The Egyptian vice president praised His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab stands. He affirmed that events have confirmed Jordan's and Egypt's commitment to the Arab strategy based on total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab territories and Palestinian people's right to self-determination and restoration of Arab Jerusalem. He said that the coming weeks will witness an intensification of joint Arab action to realize the pan-Arab objectives of the Arab nation.

Mubarak affirmed that the Arab nation understands Egypt's position and hails its faithfulness to its pan-Arab commitments. He said: I sensed total trust in and support for the Egyptian position by the Arab leaders and officials with whom I met during my tour of the Arab countries.

Replying to a question on Jordan's role in the efforts to achieve peace in the area, Mubarak said: Fraternal Jordan is one of the Arab confrontation states. Its role in achieving this end is firm. [as heard] He said: Under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn and out of its commitment to a just and honorable solution, Jordan will decide on its role. We believe that this role will definitely be in the interests of Arab objectives and rights.

Replying to a question on his assessment of the Arab position in light of his tour of the Arab countries, during which he conveyed messages from President Anwar as-Sadat to the Arab leaders, Mubarak said: I sensed total trust in and support for Egypt's position by the Arab leaders and officials with whom I met during this tour. There is a feeling that we are at a turning point where all efforts should be concerted.

Replying to a question on his assessment of the current U.S. stand following the Egyptian peace initiative, and what this stand could achieve in the interests of peace in the area, Mubarak said: Undoubtedly, the U.S. role is important and essential at this stage in view of its ability to help effectively in the negotiations underway. The United States, in view of its interests in and strong relations with the states in the area, can play an active and positive role in all the contacts underway in the area. Undoubtedly, U.S. President Carter is exerting tangible efforts in this direction. We look forward to the meeting between Presidents as-Sadat and Carter on Saturday in Washington for what this meeting might do in the way of promoting peace in the area.

HUSAYN MEETS WITH PALESTINIAN CAMPS DELEGATION

JN311642Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met in the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today with a delegation of citizens representing the sons of the [Palestinian refugee] camps in the kingdom, including a number of personages, heads of cooperative and charitable societies and young men in the camps.

After welcoming the delegation, his majesty reviewed Jordan's stand regarding current issues, particularly the Palestinian question. His majesty said: We in Jordan work for and seek Arab accord and cooperation so that our Arab nation will be up to the level of events facing it. His majesty added: The peace we accept is an honorable and just peace based on the restoration of the occupied Arab territories to their legitimate owners and the restoration of Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem.

His majesty said: Israeli withdrawal should be total. We demand that the Palestinians be enabled to decide their future themselves and have the right to self-determination, including repatriation or compensation and the implementation of the UN resolutions pertaining to this. His majesty added: The solution of the problem should be comprehensive. We should shun division and seek to build the Arab intrinsic power so that the Arab individual will be able to regain his legitimate rights. His majesty said: We cannot cooperate in anything which harms the dignity of our kinfolk and sons. We will redeem Arab dignity with our souls.

His majesty called for shunning division in the Arab world because such a state serves only the interests of the enemy. His majesty said: There is no room for despair in our souls. We should work with determination and faith.

HUSAYN SPONSORS GRADUATION OF MILITARY SERVICE DRAFTEES

JN3017202 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, today sponsored the graduation ceremony of the second group of the first class of national military service draftees who have volunteered to spend their period of service in the special forces.

His Majesty King Husayn addressed the graduates, expressing his appreciation for all the participants in this class who have elected to do their service in the ranks of the special forces. He affirmed that the hardships they faced during their training qualify them to confront the big challenges which face our nation in defense of right and for a better future for our coming generations, as well as in faithfulness to the sacrifices made by our forefathers who have preceded us in history.

His majesty affirmed that the peace we are aspiring for is a just peace which restores rights to their owners, foremost being Arab Jerusalem.

CROWN PRINCE RETURNS TO AMMAN FROM UNITED STATES

JN3121202 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn was at Amman Airport today to receive His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat, who returned from a 10-day working visit to the United States. During the visit, his highness met with a number of U.S. officials in the public and private sectors and held talks in Washington and New York which dealt particularly with the possibility of setting up research programs in Jordan with the cooperation of U.S. foundations.

On his return trip, his highness met with a number of officials in London on the possibility of establishing long-term cooperation with international organizations which specialize in the fields of finance and loans.

Also present at the airport to receive their highnesses were Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, the commander in chief of the armed forces, the court minister, senior army and state officials and the ambassadors of the United States and Britain in Amman.

JORDANIAN-SOVIET TOURISM TALKS BEGIN IN AMMAN

JN3115452 Amman JNA in Arabic 1508 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 31 January--Ghalib Barakat, minister of tourism and antiquities, and the Soviet tourism delegation headed by Sergey Nikitin, chief of the administration for foreign tourism in the Soviet Union, today discussed means for strengthening tourist cooperation between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

Barakat affirmed that the scope for cooperation in the field of tourism between the two countries is large. The good relations which exist between the two countries make this cooperation to develop certain aspects of Jordanian tourism strongly possible, he added. Barakat acquainted the delegation with Jordanian tourist attractions and the measures being taken by the government to boost and develop Jordanian tourism.

The Soviet tourism delegation today visited the royal scientific society and the University of Jordan and listened to an explanation of their achievements, aims and future projects.

PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY WITHDRAW FROM SIDON AREA

NC301347Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1320 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 30 January--Reports reaching Beirut today say that the Palestinian fedayeen have been withdrawing from the coastal and interior areas of Sidon in southern Lebanon during the past 24 hours, and that they have shut down the fedayeen command offices and centers there. This withdrawal, which was announced in advance yesterday, came in the wake of the clashes which took place between the revolution's organizations last week, and which led to a number of civilian casualties. The leftist organizations mediated and got a promise from the fedayeen to withdraw from the city following the general strike and demonstrations which the civilian population staged against the Palestinians.

In the meantime, a spokesman for the militia in another province has expressed the militia's determination to liberate the devastated city of Ad-Damur, which is now occupied by Palestinian forces. Ad-Damur was inhabited by Christians before the fedayeen occupied it during the civil war. Some of its inhabitants were killed and the others fled to areas occupied by the Christian militias.

SARKIS, KHALAF DISCUSS SITUATION IN SOUTH

NC302255Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2245 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 30 January--Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis met this evening with Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee. They discussed the situation in south Lebanon and the recent incidents which took place between Palestinian resistance groups in Sidon.

Clashes were resumed between some resistance groups in Sidon today, after calm had prevailed in the town yesterday.

GOVERNOR FAYYAD, SIDON REPRESENTATIVES MEET

NC302220Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Text] A meeting was held this evening in the office of the governor of the south, Halim Fayyad. It was attended by representatives of the inhabitants of Sidon, Deputy Nazih Bizri, Mustafa as-Sa'd, Sidon Chamber of Commerce Chairman Muhammad al-Ja'fari and the commander of the company-size force in the south. The discussions dealt with the security situation.

SUDANESE REPLACEMENT BATTALION ARRIVES IN BEIRUT

NC311746Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1707 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 31 January--A battalion of Sudanese forces arrived at Beirut harbor today to replace the battalion that has been operating with the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon since the end of 1976. Sudan agreed to the continued presence of its forces in Lebanon provided that the present contingent be replaced by another contingent.

BAGHDAD VOP: ISRAELI PLANES VIOLATE AIRSPACE

JN311933Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Several Zionist military aircraft this afternoon violated Lebanese airspace and broke the sound barrier above Beirut. This is the second such incident in 24 hours. Two Zionist planes yesterday violated Lebanese airspace and broke the sound barrier above Beirut.

PDRY PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN311725Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Mr 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Politburo member of the Unified Political Organization--National Front and prime minister of the PDRY, arrived in Damascus at 1620 today on a 1-day visit to Syria. The PDRY premier was received at the airport by Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya, a number of cabinet ministers, the governor of Damascus, the chief of protocol at the Prime Ministry and the city police chief.

In a statement at the airport Mr 'Ali Nasir Muhammad affirmed the need for consultations and coordination among the Arab progressive forces to strengthen their steadfastness against imperialism and Zionism and to promote just solutions to the causes of the Arab people. He said that the Algiers summit conference, which will resume the efforts of the Tripoli summit conference, definitely shows that the Arab front of steadfastness and confrontation will be strengthened and will continue its activities to achieve its national and pan-Arab aims and to face the imperialist-Zionist plots and the solutions of capitulation which aim at liquidating the national cause of the Palestinian people in particular and the Arab people in general. Concluding, the PDRY premier affirmed that his country will continue its support and backing for the Palestinian revolution and the Arab struggle against the Zionist occupation and against all the imperialist plots and conspiracies in the region.

Received by Al-Asad

JN311950Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] At 1915 this evening President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, PDRY prime minister, and Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, PDRY minister of information. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi. During the meeting the two sides reviewed the situation in the Arab region and exchanged views regarding the recent developments in the area and the topics to be discussed at the summit conference of the front of steadfastness and confrontation in Algiers.

Leaves for Moscow

JN011045Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 1 February--At 0800 today, PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and the accompanying delegation left Damascus for Moscow at the end of a 1-day visit to Syria during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. The guest was seen off at the Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya and a number of ministers. Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Yuriy Chernyakov was also at the airport to see the PDRY prime minister off.

In a statement to SANA, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said that his talks in Damascus dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and the role being played by the progressive Arab forces to deal with the imperialist-Zionist schemes against the Arab people. The PDRY prime minister added: We have also discussed the Algiers summit conference for resisting the imperialist plot and we stressed the importance of strengthening the unity and cohesion of the Arab people, the African peoples and their progressive forces.

Concluding his statement, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: While expressing satisfaction with the results of the meetings we held with the brother Syrian leaders, we appreciate the heroic Syrian people's steadfastness. We also express thanks for the hospitality and welcome accorded us during our stay in fraternal Syria.

LIBYA

JANA EDITOR CRITICIZES U.S. STAND ON TERRORISM

LD010322Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Cyrus Vance made a statement declaring that the Jamahiriyah, Iraq and the PDRY are on a list of countries which the United States intends to take measures against because these countries are helping Palestinians whom he described as terrorists.

JANA'S political editor, commenting on this repeated American threat which encompasses all aspects of international terrorism, writes:

We give assistance to the Palestinians because they are struggling to regain their usurped land and their lost rights. America itself contributed to their loss and continues to help the usurper.

The political editor of the agency goes on to say: While it tries through statements by her officials on various levels to describe the seekers of freedom as terrorists, America wants to forget or pretend to forget and wants to let the world forget its terrorist practices in all parts of the earth and within the United States itself.

The political editor of the agency has stressed that the world will not forget and history will recall that the United States is a leader in terrorism whether by her aggressive practices in Southeast Asia and the tragedies inflicted on the small peaceful peoples, and her practices against the peoples of Latin America and the interference of her intelligence services in the internal affairs of these countries and the control of her monopolist companies over the natural resources [words indistinct]. The world shall not forget those who were killed in all parts of the world at the instigation of the terrorist American authorities themselves and its intelligence services. Also no one will forget the conditions of the poor, the Negroes and the minorities in America herself and their continued repression. The true aspects of American terrorism continue to appear in clear pictures everywhere.

Possibly the most brilliant example of this is the presence of the American 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea and its other fleets in all areas. Possibly the series of scandals which exposed the interference of the American intelligence and its control of the various information media through agents and bugging devices show the control they have over the American people themselves. Finally, most of those who are being killed daily in all parts of the world are being killed with American weapons of destruction. Then of what terrorism do the masters of terrorism speak?

STATEMENT ISSUED ON MALTESE DELEGATION'S VISIT

LD300940Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 30 January--A joint Libyan-Maltese press statement was issued yesterday on the visit of the Maltese delegation to the Jamahiriyah. The statement reads:

At the invitation of the Foreign Liaison Bureau of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, a Maltese parliamentary delegation consisting of 14 deputies representing the ruling Labor Party and the opposition National Party visited the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from 26 to 29 January, 1978.

The delegation members met with Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress and with the president and members of the Foreign Liaison Bureau. They also held a political discussion with heads of the various bureaus of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

The delegation members became acquainted with the accomplishments of the Great 1 September Revolution and the great progress it has made in serving the interests of the Libyan Arab people. They also heard a full explanation of the Third World theory and the democratic experiment the Libyan Arab people are undergoing at present.

As a result of the meetings and talks between the delegation and the officials of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, the two sides wish to affirm the following:

1. That there are historical and cultural relations between the Libyan Arab and Maltese peoples and that these relations go back a long time in history. The two sides consider it important to develop these relations for the good of the two friendly peoples.

2. That an identity of views exists between the two sides on the importance of political and popular relations and the need to develop them for the good of both peoples.

3. That in furtherance of these relations and in an effort to consolidate them still further, the two sides encourage the exchange of visits between the various popular sectors in the two countries so that they may have the opportunity to acquaint members of both peoples with each other and thereby strengthen the fraternal relations between them.

4. That the two sides affirm the importance of Libyan-Maltese solidarity and the need to activate it to become a popular channel serving the fraternal relations desired by the peoples of the Jamahiriyah and Malta.

5. That the two sides affirm the importance of the establishment of peace and stability in the Mediterranean region and of the joint cooperation of the region's peoples in all fields.

6. That for the sake of the continuation of this constructive dialog between the two sides, the Maltese delegation invited the General People's Congress members to visit Malta and meet with the officials of the Maltese Parliament. The invitation was accepted in principle and a date will be fixed in the future.

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH LEAVES FOR BRUSSELS

PA311428Y Paris AFP in English 1348 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, Jan 31 (AFP)--President Moktar Ould Daddah left here early today for Brussels on an official visit to the European Economic Community Commission and a private visit to Belgium.

The Mauritanian leader, accompanied by his wife Marien Daddah and his foreign minister, Hamdi Ould Mouknass, will be in Brussels until Thursday and will meet Commission Chairman Roy Jenkins, King Baudouin and Belgium Prime Minister Leo Tindermans.

On his return, the president will stop over in Paris for talks with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and in Morocco where he will meet King Hassan II.

SUDAN

OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES IN KHARTOUM

LD3120247 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] OAU Secretary General William Eteki arrived in Khartoum today on a 2-day visit to Sudan, during which he will meet Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Drancis Deng; and Dr Shadhili ar-Ayyari, director of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. He will discuss with them subjects relating to the forthcoming African summit to be held in Khartoum in July.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY ON BACKGROUND TO CRISIS

LD3114207 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Speech by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira to National Assembly in Tunis--live]

[Excerpts] Honorable members of the assembly; what we never thought would happen has indeed happened. I say this with regret and sorrow, but with an undisturbed conscience, however, [appaluse] because we have resorted to numerous means of persuasion, warning against the consequences of such events. But ears would not listen, eyes would not see and hearts would not be touched. As a result the capital Tunis has experienced gloomy days, people have been killed, properties set on fire; there have been acts of terrorism and looting in many quarters of the city; individual freedom was violated in the form of attacks against houses, property and individuals. This has revealed the intentions of saboteurs and agitators; the deliberate plan was exposed, fed by ambitions and manipulated by those who were laying in wait for this nation; the objective of the calling of a general strike, which led to acts of sabotage and terrorism, was also revealed.

The objective of the outrages, anarchy and acts of violence in the streets was not to terrorize citizens; no, the objective was the disruption of public order, mass insurrection and rebellion against the state. The target behind the attacks against individuals and property and behind the disturbance of security was the state and its prestige; the obstruction of our march of development; the tarnishing of the country's reputation and position; and the undermining of the foundations of society. Does this mean anything other than violating the very independence of Tunisia and opening doors and gaps for those who are laying in ambush for the country? How did events develop to such an extent and how were we led into what we have experienced these last few days?

It is easy for those who follow the march of events to realize that the ordeal experienced by the Tunisian people was the result of a deliberate plan, the first signs of which appeared in 1976, when strikes were staged continuously and in ever increasing numbers; when the progress of economic establishments, especially in the public sector, was obstructed, with or without reason. Then, there has been recourse to various means of provocation, repeated, increasing demands reaching the point of injustice.

We did not react to this plan. We were extremely tolerant. Our tolerance led us, in recent days, to make concessions over the provisions of the Social Contract; we met demands which exceeded what we had agreed upon--that was the case with the railroad service, and the Sfax-Gafsa company. For this reason were described as weak and capitulatory.

Our aim was to close doors to those who were nursing bad intentions and deliberate schemes; to obstruct the road before all sorts of misled people and agitators, those bent on igniting the flame of sedition. These people began denigrating the policy of the government, in the economic and social field and made allegations against this policy until early last summer. Perhaps our tolerance was the cause of the extremists' fury and disappointment. They were embarrassed by our patience and tolerance. They sensed that their plan was about to fail and that they were deadlocked in a blind alley. They were thus obliged to take the mask off their real intentions. They resorted to circulating rumors and accusations to hide their activity. Then the artificial crisis, begun in the autumn, was stepped up. That was in the form of a frenzied press campaign, inside and outside the country, by the paper ASH-SHA'B [organ of the UGTT] and some foreign papers known for their leanings and aims. The campaign was interspersed with declarations and articles carried by foreign mass media. All of these declarations and articles were concentrated on definite points, carried by the organ of the Tunisian General Union of Labor [UGTT]. They were then echoed by circles known here and abroad for their allegiance to political powers that have nothing to do with our national concerns.

Then the UGTT surprised us with what we had never expected of it: an about-turn to the Social Contract which [words indistinct] was signed in an atmosphere of total awareness and commitment.

The UGTT leadership revoked the pact, turned its back on responsibility and headed toward splitting the ranks of the nation and undermining the foundations of national unity. After that, some predicted that Tunisia would suffer the same fate as Lebanon; someone else began announcing what was in store for the Tunisian people in 1978.

It was said that our economic policy had failed; then there were open calls for insurrection and rebellion and disregard for gains and laws; there was violation of governmental and constitutional establishments. This happened at the same time as strikes and agitations.

The UGTT leadership met our flexibility with confrontation; it called for a general strike, turning a deaf ear to the many voices that began to be heard from the working base, warning, and urging the UGTT leadership to stick to the union's basic principles.

The plan went into operation; weapons, means of sabotage and tear gas canisters were first prepared for this purpose. Then there were preparatory moves for what they intended to do on strike day: Agitate. On Tuesday and Wednesday groups came out of the UGTT headquarters and smashed shop windows in neighboring streets; they looted trade establishments, attacked the security forces and chanted hostile slogans.

Alongside these daily provocative acts, there have been threats and declarations of terror. Members of the UGTT executive bureau traveled throughout the country in the days that preceded the strike; they made declarations calling for agitation and acts of anarchy. We have remained calm before these challenges.

On Thursday, 26 January 1978, it became clear by early morning that most Tunisians were saying no to the call for a strike; workers went to their places of work. Faced with the failure which was becoming clear, the UGTT leader demanded the security directorate to withdraw its forces from Mohamed Ali Square; he gave a 30-minute deadline, threatening that if his demand was not met, what had happened in Tunis would continue. This led to the painful events we have experienced: there has been arson and attacks on factories and shops. Acts of violence and sabotage were then stepped up by groups of people that had spread to various quarters of the capital and in industrial areas, banks and even the general treasury.

From the outset it became clear that these groups' acts were coordinated. Rebellion and violence increased as the hours went by. The security forces were then in control of their nerves, contenting themselves with resisting the numerous attacks and preventing sabotage and arson, until matters deteriorated and the first victim fell--and it was one of them.

Despite their small number, the security forces sustained the onslaught for 4 hours, before the increasing danger and to prevent Tunis being burned down entirely; and to protect the lives of innocent citizens, units of the national army were called in at 1400; [applause] they first confronted the march that was threatening Tunis from the south and helped the security forces to control the situation in the city.

The events I have just reviewed before you leave no room for doubt about the intentions of those who took part in them. There has been a clearcut, deliberate violation of the security of the state.

The development of events will make it possible to identify everyone responsible, in a precise manner; justice will be done, in accordance with the law of the land; Tunisian justice and the Tunisian courts will look into this case, with their usual honesty and attachment to right. [applause]

However, we must learn our lesson and examine closely the confusion experienced by the country; we must learn a lesson and make available the means to shelter Tunisia from these violent storms.

I do not think I have to reaffirm that the target will be neither the workers' organization nor its structure, nor its principles, nor its objectives. The organization is an asset of the nation, a foundation of our unity and a force of development. The UGTT is sound and so is the working base.

The crux of the matter today is that the organization should resume its activity in defense of the interests of the workers, in a responsible manner. We hope to see those in charge of the UGTT hasten to normalize the situation inside the organization, on the basis of a commitment to legitimacy and the very charter of the UGTT. Let there be no reprisals, no revenge, we must be very vigilant not to blame the workers, those who work with their brains and with their hands for the consequence of what has been done by certain misguided elements.

The trade union movement will remain in the hands of the workers alone; [applause] it will be only as the workers wanted it to be; coordinated with the will of the working base, truly representing the working base; strong, active, a worthy, respected party.

On this basis, the remedy for the situation in the UGTT must be, first and foremost, a return to the Tunisian sources of the trade union movement. The various trade union federations must not be the property of the UGTT; on the contrary, the UGTT must be the property of the various federations. [applause] It is now time to see trade union responsibility bestowed on the basis of elections, not by appointment. [applause] A trade union official must always refer to and be accountable to the majority of the people who elect him, that is, to the working base alone.

On the other hand, I would like to stress that what the destructive elements did, no matter how grave and extensive, will not make us abandon the policy we decided to follow; we are more than ever determined to continue the march of development, [applause] based on two foundations: the creation of new jobs and distribution of the fruits of growth among all who take part in their production, in the fairest way. [applause] We have invented a form of development that accords with our economic potentials and the requirements of our economic and social reality and our civilization. We have never pretended to be able to solve all problems at once. No matter what ungrateful people say, however, we have achieved, in a period of less than 7 years, what others have realized over decades. [applause]

This nation has been through many ordeals; it has overcome them thanks to the wisdom of its great leader and the loyalty of its faithful sons. At this time allow me to laud the loyalty and devotion to the sacred national duty showed by the public order forces and their steadfastness before provocation; I also hail the militants and all the citizens who said yes to the call of duty, by going to work and by confronting the agitators.

I also will not fail to call the mercy of God upon the souls of the innocent victimes among the security forces, who feel while carrying out their duty; and also the souls of the innocent civilian victims of an aggressive assault.

I am convinced that the Tunisian people will once more overcome this obstacle; so long as this nation is young and sound, it will reject unhealthy elements; wounds will heal; damage will be repaired; and Tunisia will live on, despite hardships and enemies, a free country, [applause] invulnerable, eternal.

We thank God for having prevented us from falling prey to sedition. [words indistinct]. Peace be upon you. [applause]

PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA RECEIVES MALI FOREIGN MINISTER

LD311651Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 22 Jan 78 p 2 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] President Bourguiba received Colonel Samba, Malian foreign minister and President Moussa Traore's special envoy, at 1120 yesterday morning at the Carthage Palace.

The interview took place in the presence of Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri, Mr Tidiani Guisse, Malian ambassador to Tunis residing in Algiers and the director general of the Malian Foreign Ministry.

At the end of the audience, Colonel Samba made a statement in which he said he was proud to have been received by President Bourguiba. "President Bourguiba" he said, "has a very clear-sighted approach to problems which gives him a shrewd and global view of the prevalent situation in Africa while being acquainted with the particular concerns of all the African leaders."

Prior to this meeting President Bourguiba had received Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri at 1110 at the Carthage Palace.

Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri met Colonel Samba yesterday morning.

The meeting lasted 1 hour and on leaving Colonel Samba stated that he and the foreign minister had discussed the whole range of problems concerning the African Continent and the Middle East.

"We had detailed discussions on the present situation in the Horn of Africa and the Western Sahara problem and we agreed to have broad consultations in view of the coming OAU summit in Libreville next March," Colonel Samba concluded.

Colonel Samba left Tunis late yesterday afternoon.

In a statement to a TUNIS-AFRICA PRESS agency representative, Colonel Samba indicated that he had met President Bourguiba and had been struck by his perspicacity and wisdom, particularly as regards African questions.

The Malian president's special envoy added that he and Tunisian leaders had reviewed the current situation in Africa. "We exchanged viewpoints on possible solutions to Africa's problems," he added. "We also agreed to establish fruitful cooperation between our two countries for the good of our peoples," the Malian president's special envoy concluded.

Colonel Samba was seen off by the foreign minister's secretary of state, Brahim Turki.

FOUR OFFICIALS DEPRIVED OF PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY

LD311722Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] [Words indistinct], was submitted to the National Assembly regarding the lifting of parliamentarian immunity of the following MPs: Habib Achour [secretary general of the Tunisian Central Union of Labor], Kheredding Salhi; Abdelaziz Bouraoui and Hassen Hammoudia [members of the executive bureau of the Tunisian general union of Labor and now in jail for their alleged part in recent riots in the country]. They were all interrogated after an arrest warrant had been issued against them. The National Assembly committee in charge of parliamentarian immunity has decided to lift the immunity from the abovementioned MPs. The assembly has adopted this measure, so that justice may be able to pursue its course.

MOHAMED MASMOUDI PROPOSES POLITICAL CHANGE

LD211550Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The paper AL-AMAL today reported the following news item: The Paris LE MATIN, which had dispatched a special correspondent to Tunis during the recent events, published a statement by Mohamed Masmoudi [former foreign minister].

The special correspondent reported the statement as follows: Mr Masmoudi was sitting on a divan in the dining room at his home. He did not conceal his worry and concern regarding the future when he admitted to the temporary failure of the first insurrectional strike in Tunisia since independence, that is for 22 years.

The caper ended its interview with Masmoudi by stressing the following: He said it might become necessary for me to meet with Bourguiba, in the presence of Nouira who remains, in our view, despite everything, an acceptable interlocutor; we will then say to the president: Allow us to reorganize political life; the assembly today is worthless; the constitution must be amended; all freedoms must be granted; and rotation must beestablished at all levels. If Nouira says yes, I am ready; but if the Tunisian people continues to be subjected to repression, neighboring Arab countries will not remain with arms folded.

Does this kind of talk constitute an authorized threat? What do Tunisians think about it?

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO REPORT ON RECENT MILITARY ACTIVITY

19 January Communique

LD2000001Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 19 Jan 78 LD

[Text] This evening the POLISARIO issued a new military communique to the effect that the overall offensive launched by the Saharan resistance detachments since the beginning of the year against the northern and southern fronts and the Royalist Moroccan and Mauritanian enemy forces is continuing with complete success.

The communique stated that the Saharan popular army on 10 January attacked the positions of the Royalist Moroccan forces at Tarfaya for 2 hours using heavy arms. The enemy fortifications and installations and the royalist radio and television buildings were destroyed and 28 soldiers were killed.

Only 5 days after that operation, at the same place, the Saharan popular army units planted an ambush for a royalist Moroccan patrol. Seventeen soldiers were killed in the ambush and two others taken prisoners. A total of 19 military vehicles were destroyed and a large quantity of arms and military hardware was seized.

The communique added that the Saharan fighters attacked positions of the royalist invading forces at (Halmia and Bria) in the same area on 14 January. Eighteen soldiers were killed.

On the southern front, the communique stated that forces of the Saharan popular army which last week attacked (Choum) launched a new offensive against this same position on 16 January. Forty-seven soldiers of the invasion forces were killed and over 40 were injured.

Royalist Losses Cited

LD231620Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 23 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (liberated territories)--fighters of the Saharan People's Liberation Army are continuing their offensive against the monarchist and Mauritanian forces of aggression on all fronts. This is emphasized in a military communique issued by the SDAR Ministry of Defense Sunday night. The communique states:

The military victories being achieved daily by the Saharan army against the monarchist forces are reflected again in the heavy losses suffered by the enemy on 19 and 20 January when 55 monarchist soldiers were put out of action.

On 19 January, the occupation forces stationed at Jdiria suffered 19 dead and 15 wounded in two harassing operations launched by our fighters, who also destroyed an enemy fuel dump.

The day after, the monarchist troops at Oued Nasser were heavily engaged by a unit of the Saharan army. The fighting, which lasted 3 hours, resulted in 36 dead and many wounded in the royal armed forces ranks and five vehicles destroyed.

New Battle Successes

LD251800Y Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] SDAR (liberated territories) APS--The ministry of defense of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] has issued a military communique stating that the Saharan people's liberation army continues to inflict losses on the royal and Mauritanian forces of aggression. The station at Inal was destroyed and 17 soldiers killed. There were 54 deaths on the northern front. The forces of aggression suffered heavy losses on 19 and 21 January as a result of four operations carried out by our fighters at Tassikimatene, Bir Mogrein, Tifariti and Inal. On 19 January the enemy troops suffered 25 deaths and about 20 soldiers were injured after a 3-hour attack at Tassikimatene. On the same day 20 enemy soldiers were put out of action during an attack on Bir Mogrein. Several military installations were also destroyed. On 21 January our fighters struck Tifariti where the enemy suffered nine deaths and five injured and Inal was partly destroyed. During the latter attack, 17 enemy soldiers were put out of action and two land rovers destroyed by our fighters who recovered a large quantity of foodstuffs and ammunition.

More Enemy Losses Reported

LD291540Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] A communique published by the POLISARIO Front indicates that an offensive launched by the Saharan Liberation Army at the beginning of the year continues victoriously on the northern and southern fronts. On the night of 25 January the Saharan army attacked an enemy garrison on the southern front at Toujil. Enemy positions were also attacked resulting in 62 of the killed dead and 57 injured. On 24 January a Saharan Liberation Army unit ambushed a Moroccan Army column, leaving 32 dead. At Tifariti on 25 January the army attacked the same column and 23 soldiers were killed and as many injured.

FRENCH AIRCRAFT ACCUSED OF BOMBING SAHARANS

LD312029Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--Following the attack of the enemy garrison at Touadjil by a unit of the Saharan People's Liberation Army [SPLA], which inflicted very heavy losses in men and equipment on the troops of occupation and aggression and during which the Mauritanian troops abandoned their positions and fled the combat areas and following the murderous attacks unleashed by our fighters against the whole of the enemy forces on the northern and southern fronts, including on the railway track of the Zouirat mineral line, the aggressors' only recourse was to bring in their air force against our units, states a POLISARIO Front communique made public on Monday evening in Algiers.

Guided by three Breguet-Atlantics, several Jaguars and three F-5's attempted to find our unit east of Sbaita, in the Bir-Anzaran area on 26 January. The enemy air force again intervened against our units on 27 January south of Oum Dreiga, where, during the invasion, our vulnerable people again suffered the assaults of two monarchist F-5's, which bombed our women and children, who had fled from the hell of occupied El Aaiun and Smara, with napalm.

For this second intervention, the enemy undertook a bombing operation during which three Breguet-Atlantics guiding three Moroccan F-5's and five Jaguars of the French Air Force, which, once again, intervened directly against our fighters right in Saharan Arab Democratic Republic territory.

This new intervention was shortlived for the enemy and the response of our glorious fighters forced them to retreat, the effect of surprise no longer being possible.

Three SPLA fighters were wounded and a small amount of material damage was sustained, concludes the communique.

DAYAN DENIES PROMISING SETTLEMENT CESSATION

TA011112Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said [today] in the Knesset that it is untrue that Prime Minister Begin and he had promised the U.S. Government that the Israeli Government would not approve the establishment of new settlements in Judaea and Samaria. In answer to a question from MK Zalman Shoval, Mr Dayan said that, in his conversation with President Carter in Washington last September, he had told the President that he thinks that the policy of all future governments will be the same as it was in the past--to continue settlement in Judaea and Samaria. At the same time, he had told the President that, in consideration of the special circumstances of the intensive peace negotiations, settlements in the coming months would take place within the framework of military camps. Dayan's remarks to President Carter were made with the prime minister's approval.

DAYAN REMARKS TO KNESSET COMMITTEE ON ISSUES

TA011055Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday that Israel will not agree for the declaration of principles being worked out between Israel and Egypt to include the terms "self-determination" and "a Palestinian people."

Minister Dayan emphasized that the formulation of the declaration of principles has not yet been completed. He also said that if agreement on such a declaration is achieved, Israel and Egypt will move on to the discussion of the two remaining questions on the agenda (the declaration of principles is the first question on the agenda of the Political Committee). However, the framework of the discussion is not yet known. Dayan also added that Jordan is not joining the negotiations for the time being.

Further Details

TA011104Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Feb 78 p 6 TA

[By Gid'on Reicher]

[Excerpt] Israel will insist that the joint Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles, include the term "the inhabitants" and not the term "the Palestinian people."

For us, the Arabs of the territories are residents. This was said by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan at the meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday.

Minister Dayan also said that if we achieve a joint declaration of principles with Egypt, the road will be opened for the Political Committee to also discuss the other issues on its agenda.

ZIPPORI DENIES SETTLEMENT ESTABLISHED AT SHILO

TA311946Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Following remarks made by President Carter at last night's press conference to the effect that the settlement in Shilo had not been authorized by the Cabinet of Israel, Deputy Minister of Defense Mordekhay Zippori this evening said that the Ministry of Defense had authorized the activity of an archeological expedition in ancient Shilo.

The expedition's workers included a group of settlers in 'Ofra. According to Mr Zippori, the group will prepare the ground for archeological digs which will begin in the spring. The deputy defense minister told our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram, that there was no intention at this stage of setting up a settlement there. The ceremony held on the spot was initiated purely by the workers.

Our correspondent adds that in the talks held by Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan with President Carter it was said that Israel would reinforce the existing settlements. The reference was to six military camps which will be manned by civilians. All this would be done by the end of 1977--which is what happened.

BEGIN REPLIES TO STUDENTS' LETTERS ON WITHDRAWAL

TA010654Y Jerusalem POST in English 1 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday responded to a letter from 80 Tel Aviv area high school children who had told him that if he didn't agree to total withdrawal from the territories taken in 1967 and the establishment of a Palestinian state, their blood would be on his hands.

Begin said acceptance of those terms would "create conditions in which thousands of old and young people, men, women and children would fall."

Addressing the letter to Danny Amir of the Tichon Hadash in Tel Aviv, he asked him to gather his friends and study the map of "the land of Israel and its neighbors." They will see, Begin wrote, that "as long as Israel's cruelest enemy since the Nazis holds our territory, Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, almost all the civilian population will be within range of fire."

The prime minister said he had heard that the pupils are supporters of Shelli, "who have two Knesset seats out of 120." He pointed out that he was fulfilling his duty as the leader in a democracy by maintaining his present position on the territorial and Palestinian issues.

At the beginning of his letter, Begin criticized the youths for releasing their letter--"a personal letter"--to the press several days before he received it. He added: "I will say nothing more of the style, manners, attitude and choice of words, which perhaps could not have been worse....

SHARON ACCUSES EGYPT OF AGREEMENT VIOLATIONS

TA311215Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Jan 78 p 4 TA

[By Yeoshu'a Bizor]

[Text] The IDF alone cannot serve as a security belt around our borders. This belt, first and foremost, is created by the settlements, which grow roots. A large part of Sinai will be demilitarized territory. Experience teaches that there are always agreement violations in demilitarized territories. Therefore, it is first of all the settlements and not the army that serve to secure our borders, said Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee discussing settlement in the territories.

In his remarks, Minister Sharon pointed to the fact that the Egyptians are even now violating the conditions of the agreement in the demilitarized zones or in the limited forces zone and asked: Will we go to war because of violations in a demilitarized zone? His answer: Only strong settlements can insure our border, and for this reason it is very important to maintain the existing settlements in the Rafah Salient.

When the minister was asked how, in his opinion, it is possible to maintain strong settlements in the Rafah salient under Egyptian sovereignty, he replied: I have various proposals and plans. He did not elaborate.

Former Prime Minister Yizhaq Rabin came out strongly against the plan to impose Egyptian sovereignty over the Rafah salient. He asked: How can this work? It is inconceivable. MK Rabin revealed that he is prepared to discuss the possibility of a territorial exchange involving the Rafah salient but not, under any circumstances, Egyptian sovereignty over that area. He claimed that the government made a serious mistake in promising As-Sadat the whole of Sinai at the beginning of the negotiations.

MK Shelomo Hille (Alinement) also requested that under no circumstances should the Rafah salient settlements be conceded. He maintained that these settlements were established with the approval and at the instruction of previous governments out of security considerations.

MK Yosi Sarid (Alinement) asked what is the need for the numerous statements by ministers. He also complained about the bulldozer work in the Rafah salient while the political negotiations were underway.

Minister Sharon responded by saying that political settlements are unnecessary. He explained that the bulldozer work was being carried out to expand and strengthen the settlements and this was planned a long time ago. He announced that, for the time being, there is no intention of establishing new settlements in the Rafah salient, only strengthening the existing ones.

ISRAEL TO LAUNCH WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN TALKS

TA311420Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Jan 78 p 8 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi]

[Text] MK Abba Eban will be leaving for the United States for 2 weeks to lead an information campaign in the framework of a worldwide information campaign recently launched by the Foreign Ministry to counter the Egyptian information offensive and to explain the principles of Israeli policy.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan recently appealed to MK Abba Eban and asked him to undertake information activities in the United States. Eban agreed in principle.

In the framework of the information drive, various countries in the world will be visited by Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir, Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yizhaq Moda'i, Supreme Court Judge Me'ir Shamgar, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Chairman Prof Moshe Arns, Director of the Prime Minister's Office Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, Foreign Ministry legal adviser Dr Me'ir Rosenne, Foreign Ministry adviser Ehud Avri'el, Prof Yosef Rom, Prof Yisra'el Abir, Deputy Minister Yoram Avidor, Knesset Members Zalman Shoval and Yigal Kohen and others.

Emphasis in this information campaign will be placed on Israel's willingness to make concessions to Egypt to achieve peace. Among other things, they will point to the fact that the Egyptian Government decision to stop the political talks in Jerusalem came just at the point when there were signs of agreement between the parties toward the formulation of a declaration of principles. It will, therefore, be stressed that the cessation of the political and military talks did not come about as a result of differences of opinion between the parties but for other reasons--among other things, pressure from various countries and political maneuverings. Israel's information policy will also be explained, as well as the fact that the Egyptian media and official spokesmen have not desisted from insulting and offending the Jewish people, the State of Israel and its leaders.

HA'AREZ Report on Campaign

TA011140Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[Text] An information campaign that will present Israel's position against the background of the negotiations with Egypt will be launched in the United States next week by a number of prominent publicists in this country.

On the basis of an agreement reached between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and a group of prominent advertisers in the United States, a public poll was taken recently aimed at examining Israel's positions and status in the eyes of the U.S. public. The findings of the poll will be concluded next week and this will be followed by an extensive information campaign. The campaign will make it possible to give expression to various trends of thought, in view of the Arab propaganda that will be launched in the United States upon As-Sadat's visit.

As part of the Israeli information campaign, a group of ministers and Knesset members will shortly leave for various countries. The group includes, among others, Abba Eban, Moshe Arens, Shemu'el Tamir, Yoram Aridor, Ehud Avri'el and Ehud Olmert.

JERUSALEM TAKES SERIOUS VIEW OF GERMAN ARMS SALES

TA311150Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Jan 78 p 15 TA

[Excerpt] Jerusalem views seriously reports concerning the sale of large quantities of weapons, mainly guided missiles, to Syria by a joint Franco-German company. Jerusalem regards this as a serious violation on Germany's part of a delcared commitment not to sell arms to areas of conflict.

This morning, official elements in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem avoided reacting to these reports. In answer to a question, the ministry spokesman said that the issue is being checked through diplomatic channels, and only after clarifications have been made will Israel react if it transpires that there is truth in these reports.

SHAH RECEIVES BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

LD301110Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The Belgian foreign minister was received by the shah today. On his arrival at Teheran last night, he spoke to reporters, saying: During my visit I will hold talks with my Iranian counterpart on the political situation in this part of the world, Iran's relations with the EEC, of which Belgium is a member, as well as bilateral relations.

He added: Europe, and consequently Belgium, is concerned about the events in the Horn of Africa and the outcome of hostilities taking place there. The outcome of these events will affect the stability of the entire African Continent, the security of europe and the Persian Gulf. In this connection, I will hold talks with my Iranian counterpart.

In answer to the question on Belgium's readiness to cooperate with Iran on nuclear energy, the Belgian foreign minister said: Yes, we would like this cooperation to continue in the industrial field, and talks are underway between the two countries at official and private levels.

The Belgian foreign minister is on a 3-day visit to our country. This morning he paid floral tribute to the mausoleum of Reza Shah the Great.

Talks Held

LD311645Y Brussels Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Henri Simonet, who is at present on an official visit in Iran, was received by the shah yesterday afternoon. The discussion dealt with important international events. Simonet pointed out that he had sent a letter to his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Dayan 2 weeks ago. In this letter he stressed that Israel was being offered an historic chance to achieve pace. In the letter Simonet said that sooner or later Israel would have to admit that the Palestinians have a right to self-determination, because without that any form of agreement would be impossible. The minister added that this letter had been written after the failure of the nine to agree on the attitude to adopt regarding the latest developments in the Middle East. This letter was not particularly appreciated by the Israelis, Simonet added.

Foreign Ministers' Speeches

LD311036Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0500 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] At a dinner reception held in honor of the Belgian foreign minister, Mr Khalatbari said: The Iranian and Belgian goverments hold common or very similar views about the very important international issues of the day. Our country's foreign minister said: Iran allocates about 6 percent of its GNP to foreign aid either in the form of bilateral agreements or in the framework of multilateral agreements.

The Belgian foreign minister said: Iran enjoys stability and equilibrium in this vital area of the world. Hence, the industialized countries ought to have full cooperation with the countries that possess the necessary raw materials and are in the process of developing.

INDIA

YUGOSLAVIA'S DORONJSKI BEGINS 4-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

LD311752Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1610 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] New Delhi, January 31, (TANJUG)--Vice President of the Presidency of Yugoslavia Stevan Doronjski and other members of the Yugoslav delegation arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on a four-day official and friendly visit to India.

In a brief statement on arrival, Vice-President Doronjski thanked for the warm welcome and expressed satisfaction at visiting India, a country linked with Yugoslavia by traditional friendship and highly successful cooperation in the international field.

Doronjski pointed out that his talks with Indian officials during the next few days will cover current international problems, especially activity of the non-alined countries in the international field and preparations for the forthcoming major meetings of these countries. In this context, he mentioned the session of the non-alined coordinating bureau in Kabul and the non-alined ministerial conference in Belgrade. Doronjski said that the development of bilateral relations will have a major place in the talks.

Doronjski Stresses Nonalinement

LD312303Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 2134 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] New Delhi, January 31, TANJUG--Vice-President of the Presidency of Yugoslavia Steven Doronjski has expressed the confidence that the forthcoming important meeting of non-aligned countries--the coordinating bureau meeting in Kabul, the ministerial conference in Belgrade and next year's summit conference in Havana--"will further affirm the aims of the movement of non-alignment and contribute to their realization."

"As a host country, we shall strive for the Belgrade conference to adopt a platform and decisions in accordance with the widest interests of non-aligned countries," said Doronjski, replying to a toast delivered by Indian Vice-President Basappa Jatti at tonight's dinner in honour of his guest.

Speaking of the importance of the fifth non-aligned summit conference in Colombo for the movement of non-aligned countries, especially in regard to developing its unity and capacity for action, Doronjski emphasized the strengthening of its role as an independent movement, "despite the pressures being brought to bear on non-aligned countries."

Doronjski said had Yugoslavia highly appreciated [as heard] the dynamic and constructive efforts being exerted by the Indian Government headed by Prime Minister Morarji Desai with a view to establishing good-neighbourly relations and cooperation with countries on the Indian sub-continent. This, he said, consolidates stablity in this important region and helps reinforce the policy of non-alignment.

Doronjski recalled Yugoslavia's position that there can be no solution for the Middle East crisis without Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including the right to their own state, as well as recognition of the existence and security of all countries in the region, including Israel.

He stressed the necessity of participation by the Palestinian Liberation Organization in dealing with questions which concern the Palestinian people, as the crucial issue of the Middle East crisis and emphasized that joint action and cooperation among all Arab factors are needed for successful solution of this crisis.

The vice-president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia strongly deplored the Somali-Ethiopian conflict in the Horn of Africa and the recent conflict between Vietnam and Kampuchea. He said he was confident that these disputes can successfully be settled only by peaceful means and on the basis of the policy of non-alignment and peaceful coexistence.

Speaking of the problems of disarmament is linked with those of development, Doronjski dealt with the need for the non-aligned countries to give the problems even more attention than they do now and, in this context, stressed the importance of the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament. He reaffirmed Yugoslavia's support for the proposal to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, while reasserting the importance of the Colombo recommendation for efforts to turn the Mediterranean into a zone of peace too.

Jatti Speaks At Banquet

BK0109277Y Delhi ISI in English 0833 GMT 1 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Vice President B.D. Jatti held a banquet in honour of His Excellency Stevan Doronjski, vice president of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in New Delhi on January 31.

Proposing the toast Jatti said: Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you and the members of your delegation to India. The warm and cordial relations between India and Yugoslavia have been developed by a happy tradition of exchange of visits by the statesmen of the two countries and your present visit will further strengthen these relations.

As pioneers of the nonaligned movement we have together witnessed the growth of its membership and prestige over the years. The policy of nonalignment continues to be the instrument of foreign policy of both our countries. Its relevance has been proved despite far-reaching changes in the world.

In the conduct of our foreign policy, our attempt is to foster friendship with all countries, particularly our neighbours. Our relations with Nepal, Burma, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are cordial and there have been several exchanges of visits to strengthen these relations on the basis of equality and peaceful coexistence. The signing of the Farakka agreement, the discussions held on signing the separate treaties on trade and transit with Nepal and the forthcoming visit of our foreign minister to Pakistan are all pointers towards the desire of India to live peacefully with out neighbours. Our efforts are aimed at joining hands with our neighbours to increase the pace of economic development in the countries of the region.

It is this attitude of goodwill and willingness to cooperate on equal terms which governs our policies to other countries also. We have been able to develop in a constructive spirit mutually beneficial cooperation with most countries of the world. At the same time we have noted with regret that areas of tension continue to exist in the world and the sudden eruptions of conflict in certain areas disturb peace and inhibit economic progress. We are in favour of peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiations without external interference and we hope that tensions will be altogether eliminated from the face of the earth.

The continued presence of minority regimes in Zimbabwe and South Africa, despite universal condemnation is indeed a challenge to the conscience of humanity. India, like Yugoslavia, extends full support to the liberation movements and hopes that the differences and disunity among the various movements will be resolved expeditiously. We favour a definite time bound programme for the transfer of power which can be speeded up only by effective sanctions against the minority regimes.

India desires that the Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace with no military presence of any foreign power in the region. Economic development of the littoral states should not be affected by an arms race involving the establishment of military bases and deployment of navies. The current discussions between the USSR and the United States of the demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean augurs well for the area, but India would advocate the total elimination of foreign presence and not merely a reduction of strength.

Economic cooperation among the nonaligned countries themselves needs to be cultivated with greater fervour. Increasing trade and economic relations between India and Yugoslavia should be an example in this context. Of late, there has been a sizeable amount of diversification of goods exchanged between us.

The recently declared industrial policy of the Government of India lays stress on the development of small scale and village industries. This would generate a vast amount of employment and give a fillip to the industrial development of rural India. Consequently, the industrial activity in India as a whole will move forward with greater speed. We would wish to share with other nonaligned countries our experience in this field and help them to achieve economic progress. India has been in recent years increasingly participating in the economic development of countries in Africa and the gulf. Yugoslavia, too, is participating in a big way in the economic development of the countries in Africa, the gulf and Latin America. I have no doubt that the united efforts of the nonaligned nations will bring about economic strength to the countries and thus strengthen the movement itself. Simultaneously, we shall seek cooperation with developed countries and claim for ourselves our rightful place in the comity of nations.

Friends, I would now like to propose a toast to the health of His Excellency President Josip Broz Tito, to the health of people who are assembled here and to the well-being of the people of Yugoslavia and India.

NEPAL

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON YUGOSLAV VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

LD010036Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1610 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Katmandu--On the completion of the visit to the Kingdom of Nepal by Stevan Doronjski, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, a joint communique was issued in Katmandu today on the talks and meetings which the eminent Yugoslav visitor held during his stay in that friendly country. The text of the communique reads:

At the invitation of Kirti Nidhi Bista, prime minister of Nepal, Stevan Doronjski, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, and his wife made an official visit to Nepal from 28 to 31 January 1978. Accompanying Vice President Doronjski were: Dr Slobodan Gligorijevic, member of the Federal Executive Council; Mirko Ostojic, assistant federal secretary for foreign affairs; And Jelko Blazevic, SFRY ambassador in the Kingdom of Nepal; and Dragoslav Pejic, director of the Office for South and Southeast Asia in the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs; and other high-(?ranking officials).

King Birendra received Stevan Doronjski, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, and his wife in Surkhet, the regional administrative center in western Nepal. Vice President Doronjski conveyed to the king and queen the greetings and good wishes of President Tito.

King Birendra exchanged opinions with SFRY Vice President Doronjski on the development of Yugoslav-Nepalese relations, and on certain other international topics.

During his stay in Nepal, SFRY Vice President Doronjski laid a wreath on the martyrs memorial and visited a number of places of historical and cultural significance in Katmandu and its environs.

Prof Krishna Raj Aryal, minister of foreign affairs, and Dr Bhekr Bhadur Thapa, minister of finance, visited Vice President Doronjski and exchanged opinions on international problems and bilateral issues.

Dr Slobodan Gligorijevic, member of the Federal Executive Council, and Dr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, minister of finance, held separate talks on ways to further advance bilateral economic relations between Yugoslavia and Nepal.

During the visit, the SFRY vice president and the prime minister of Nepal had a frank and friendly exchange of opinions on a large number of bilateral, regional and international questions. The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and warmth.

It was stated with great satisfaction that the visits by King Birendra to Yugoslavia and by President Tito to Nepal had further consolidated the foundations of close relations between Nepal and Yugoslavia. The Nepalese prime minister expressed (?the conviction that the present) visit of the vice president of the SFRY Presidency would further expand the area of cooperation and understanding between the two countries.

Doronjski, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, expressed his gratitude at the contribution and role of King Birendra, under whose wise and dynamic leadership the Nepalese people are making all-around efforts to accelerate their development, based on social justice and balanced regional development, within the framework of their own political structure. The prime minister expressed his high opinion of the role and contribution made by President Tito, under whose leadership Yugoslavia has achieved a significant place and regard on the international level.

The two sides confirmed their belief in the principles of nonalined policy, peaceful coexistence and in the principle of sovereign equality of all states, contained in the UN Charter. They noted with satisfaction the growing role of the nonalined countries in international relations and expressed their determination to exert mutual efforts toward the further consolidation of unity and solidarity of the nonalined countries.

They devoted special attention to the activities of the nonalined countries in connection with the coming ministerial conference of the nonalined countries, which is to be held in Belgrade in July of this year, and expressed their readiness to make their full contribution to the success of that important meeting.

The vice president of the SFRY Presidency and the Nepalese prime minister expressed serious concern over the constant deepening of the differences between the developed and the developing countries. They expressed their support for the implementation as soon as possible of special measures proposed by the UN General Assembly and other institutions in favor of the least developed developing countries and the countries without access to the sea. Both sides agreed that a new international economic order, based on justice for all peoples, was imperative, and they agreed to coordinate their activity in international forums in order to achieve that aim.

The two sides expressed their readiness to make a full contribution to the success of the coming special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament, which is being held at the initiative of the nonalined countries.

Considering the situation in the Middle East, the two sides expressed the opinion that a settlement of the problem must be based on an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, the realization of the right of the Palestinian people to their own state and the recognition of the existence and independence of all states in the region, including Israel.

The two sides welcomed the process of decolonization in Africa, but expressed grave concern over the continued existence of racist and illegal regimes in southern Africa. They demanded urgent elimination of these regimes and establishment of the power of the African majority in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

Examining the situation in the Horn of Africa, the two sides were in agreement that the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia must be resolved by peaceful means and on the basis of the principles contained in the OAU Charter. They stressed that outside interference might further worsen the situation, to the detriment of the peoples of Africa.

During the discussion, a proposal for the proclamation of Nepal as a zone of peace was examined. The two sides assessed that the atmosphere had improved in the region of Southern Asia, and expressed the hope that this would lead to greater understanding between all countries, which would allow them to devote their main attention to their economic development and thus further consolidate peace in the region. The vice president of the SFRY Presidency expressed understanding and respect for the initiatives leading to the accomplishment of these aims.

Examining bilateral relations, the two sides agreed that conditions and broad opportunities exist for the development of mutually profitable economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Stevan Doronjski, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, expressed his gratitude for the warm hospitality shown to him, his wife and the members of his delegation by his majesty's government and the people of Nepal.

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